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POLL RESULTS

Do you know what Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution is about?

Yes	84
No	26
Somewhat	12

Sunday, April 15, 2012

INSIDE

NATION

President Barack Obama begins his re-election campaign defending traditionally Republican territory that he carried when he won the White House four years ago.

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ASIA

North Korea on Sunday unveiled what appeared to be a new missile at a military parade in Pyongyang.

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LIFE & STYLE

On their way into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Guns N' Roses got together for one more gig.

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CNMI owes 3 years of dues to Asia-Pacific legislatures' body. PAGE 2

Emotions run high over MOE issues. PAGE 3

Kilili: $65M in unspent CIP, federal highway money

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» **Delegate shares thoughts on proposed casinos on Saipan**

The CNMI has $54 million in projected unspent capital improvement project money by the end of September as well as some $11 million in unspent Federal Highway Administration funds that could have been circulating in the local economy and creating more badly needed jobs, Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) said.

Sablan

CIP grant money provides funding to a lot of infrastructure needs in the CNMI, including critical needs such as in the areas of education, power, water, wastewater and solid waste programs and services.

"The economy is our biggest problem, yet we're sitting on $54 million in unspent CIP money. We also have $11 million of Federal Highway money unspent. At a time

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Sablan pushes for US naval vessel repairs in CNMI

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) introduced a bill that will permit the overhaul and repair of U.S. naval vessels in the CNMI.

Under current law, naval vessels with a homeport in the U.S. are prohibited from being overhauled, repaired, or maintained in a shipyard outside the 50 states or Guam, except for voyage repairs.

His bill, H.R. 4338, amends the law, specifically Title 10 of the United States Code, to include the CNMI as

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Oleai Elementary tops Parade of Books

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Oleai Elementary School emerged the winning school in the 8th Annual Parade of Books hosted by the Rotary Club of Saipan at the Marianas High School Gymnasium last Saturday.

The Home of the Turtles won the grand prize of $1,000 after garnering a total score of 146.4 points for their interpretation of *The Legend of the Blue Bonnet*, a story about a girl who sacrificed her most prized possession to save her people from famine.

Oleai Elementary School, which bested six other public and private elementary schools, also bagged the Best Director award which came with a prize of one overnight stay at Pacific Islands Club.

This is the fifth time that Oleai Elementary School has won the Parade of Books. They also triumphed in the contest in 2006, 2007, 2009, and 2011.

"The story was hard, the preparations were hard. The students were not familiar with the story. We worked on it to give them our interpretation of the story," said Tina Tenorio, one of the three coaches and directors of the team comprised of about 30 students and practiced for a month. The others were Jasylene Parico and Charlene Valle.

Frantia Sablan, who played the role of the sun, said she has been participating since third grade in the annual competi-

CLARISSA V. DAVID

A student raises her doll, her most prized possession, as part of Oleai Elementary School's interpretation of *The Legend of the Blue Bonnet* during the 8th Annual Parade of Books held at the Marianas High School Gymnasium on Saturday.

tion that promotes literacy among elementary students.

"It was hard but it's worth it because we won. I'm very happy," said the 9-year-old fifth grader.

Fifth grade teacher and parent Carla Sablan said that even parents and families of students contributed to the success of Oleai's victory.

"Everybody really worked hard for it and they deserve credit," she added.

Danika Aguon, 11, said that their four weeks of hard work paid off and two-hour practices after school all paid off.

"It was very difficult but once we got the hang of it, everything went well. I'm very happy that we won on my last year at Oleai," said the sixth grader who had a part as one of the villagers.

The winning team were cheering and chanting as they accepted their award from the Rotary officers and members.

The other winners were Koblerville Elementary School, second place and Best in Spirit Award, taking home $750 and 30 PIC Waterpark passes for Best in Spirit Award; San Vicente Elementary School, third place, $500; Dandan Elementary School, fourth place, $300; and Kagman Elementary School, fifth place, $200.

Consolation prizes of $100 were given

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Local

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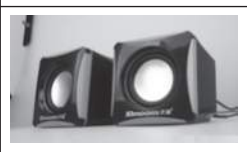
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CNMI owes 3 years of dues to Asia-Pacific legislatures' body

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Legislature owes three years of contributions to the Asian-Pacific Parliamentarians' Union totaling $3,600, its Tokyo-based Secretariat said.

"The Central Secretariat has difficulty in forming a budget plan for FY 2012 because of the uncertainty of payments by member countries," APPU Secretary-General Tetsuya Hirose said in a letter to CNMI Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota).

The CNMI Legislature has yet to pay its annual dues for 2010, 2011, and 2012, each at $1,200.

"You are kindly requested to remit the said amount at the earliest possible time," the Secretariat added.

Manglona, when asked for comment, said yesterday that the CNMI Legislature will make minimum payment of at least $1,200, which is only for one year contribution, to maintain its membership with APPU.

"With the economic crisis we're in, the members choose not to make this a priority. Nevertheless, APPU is an organization that we should continue to be a member of. That's why we should make minimum payment to maintain our membership with this good organization," Manglona said in a phone interview.

For 2012, the 23 member-countries of APPU are supposed to pay a total of $58,400. It is not known as of press time

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IF AND WHEN CASINO GAMING IS LEGALIZED ON SAIPAN

Local bill to ban poker machines outside of licensed casinos

» Update on casino signature drive on Wednesday

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Long before the question of legalizing casino gaming on Saipan is put in the Nov. 6 ballot once it gathers enough signatures, Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) pre-filed a local bill that would prohibit the operation of poker and pachinko slot machines outside of licensed casinos on the island.

"If and when casino gambling is approved in the Third Senatorial District [Saipan]… poker machines will be better located in the casinos," Torres said, adding that many residents are against having poker machines in villages.

Torres, a strong proponent of Saipan casino gaming, is expected to formally introduce House Local Bill 17-75 in the next House session.

Under Torres' bill, the ban on poker machines outside licensed casinos will take effect one year after casino gaming is authorized on Saipan or 90 days after a casino licensed to engaged in casino gaming on Saipan is open to the public, "whichever period is greater."

There is an ongoing petition to gather at least 2,500 to 2,700

See CASINO on Page 4

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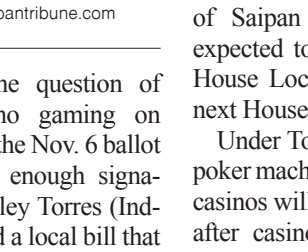

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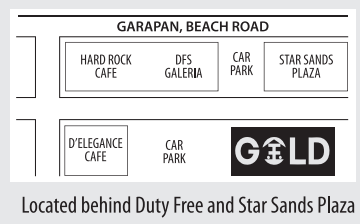

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Emotions run high over MOE issues

» Kilili, Igisomar in heated exchanges

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The maintenance of effort—a federal funding requirement for the CNMI government as a grant recipient to maintain and meet certain levels of local funding to be eligible for full participation of federal grant funding—had been a contentious issue for stakeholders of the Public School System.

On Friday this hot-button issue, which has resulted into a back-and-forth disagreement in the past between the school district and the central government mainly on the actual figure owed, was subject of a heated exchange between Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan and Commerce Secretary Sixto Igisomar.

The U.S. delegate was one of the invited panelists while Igisomar was one of several parents that showed up during the daylong PSS Legislative Leadership Summit for Parents.

Igisomar was the second parent who took the microphone when the question-and-answer segment opened following the panel presentation. In the panel were Sablan, Board of Education's Tanya King, Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind.-Rota), and House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan).

"So if the CNMI has serious challenges and we violated the MOE, is there any statutory (approach) that we can do in (Washington) D.C. to give the CNMI a waiver? " Igisomar asked Sablan.

Sablan

Sablan responded by clarifying Igisomar's impression of the waiver for MOE, noting that the central government, in essence, has already defaulted the first waiver and is on the brink of facing the same prospect with the second waiver.

"We already got the waiver. We are now violating the second waiver," the U.S. lawmaker retorted. To further clarify the MOE, Sablan said the CNMI government's share is "30 cents" to every "dollar" allocated through federal grants. "That is the original agreement. Because we do not have that amount, we got the second waiver…but that has not been done here in the CNMI," he added.

In reality, Sablan added that what is owed by the central government is $8 million—an amount that is "short-changing" public school students. "We should be ashamed of ourselves by doing that," Sablan said, and went on to reflect "If I will shortchange my own child, I will be ashamed of myself."

Igisomar

But Igisomar pressed on by reminding the U.S. congressman that there are other important issues facing the Commonwealth such as public health and safety, among others.

"Congressman, I respect that. All I'm trying to say is that we have issues here in addition to the waiver. All I am asking is if we can find a way to continue the negotiation (with the USDOE) probably by lifting the MOE," Igisomar said.

The commerce secretary also alluded to a possible way that the local legislature can also find leeway to help address the waiver, or another way to ease the financial burden for PSS.

In defense of the Legislature

In between the heated exchange, Sablan even stood in defense of the CNMI Legislature in responding to Igisomar's queries and comments.

"Sixto, if you are talking about (easing the CNMI government's) difficulties, I got $8 additional money to help for PSS payroll. If I did not do that, PSS will shut down because the CNMI government cannot pay," said Sablan.

Under last year's Education Jobs Act, Sablan's office secured a chunk of the federal money to pay for eight payrolls for public school teachers, staff, and employees. It was at a time when government revenues dipped at its lowest last year that promoted the revision and readjustment of government revenues in the middle of the fiscal year.

"They (the Legislature) did not shortchange PSS. They do not write a check to PSS. Do not blame them; they did their work. It is the rest of the government that (did not do its part)," Sablan answered back. Sorry, Sixto, these people need to know the truth about what is going on our island. Let us not confuse the issue," Sablan said.

He added that USDOE has only provided a "little room for NMI" in terms of compliance to the requirements and standards.

Education, Sablan added, is a "serious business for me. I am sorry, whoever gets in the way in the education of our children, I will fight against it."

Realizing that his questioning turned to a heated exchange, Igisomar quickly apologized, citing all he wanted to express was "working together for a solution."

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Babauta vows to soon reopen MIAP office

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta disclosed yesterday that revival of the Medically Indigent Assistance Plan (MIAP) is in the works.

MIAP is a program established to provide assistance to non-insured indigents by providing discounted rates on their prescription drugs as determined by the healthcare corporation. Its fund is from the compact impact money provided to the CNMI yearly, which covers citizens of Federated States of Micronesia.

Babauta acknowledged that opening of the MIAP Office within the corporation is important for the medically indigent population.

"As soon as we are able to hire staff to man the MIAP Office it will also handle the screening for those who may qualify for Medicaid. We need to coordinate this, however, with the Medicaid Office for certification," Babauta said yesterday, adding that the timing for the opening will depend on how quickly the corporation can hire a qualified staff person.

Saipan Tribune learned that the CEO has recently approved the hiring of a qualified employee for the MIAP program, which processing is expected to be completed very soon.

Babauta is in favor of hiring a part-time employee for the MIAP office for now who could also assist with Medicaid. The CEO also expressed his desire to see a Medicaid personnel stationed at the hospital to do Medicaid assistance.

He revealed that during his recent official trip in San Francisco, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) had expressed support to the program. Babauta said he will coordinate with Esther Muna, the governor's appointee to oversee the Medicaid program in the CNMI, for the MIAP's opening. Because of the limited resources and austerity measures implemented in CHC, its MIAP office was closed since late last year.

Since its closure, many indigents who used to avail of the program's service have been affected because they were not able to process their renewals while some did not receive any update on their pending applications due to its sudden closure. *Saipan Tribune* learned that there are about a hundred MIAP clients currently availing the discounted drugs whose cards are still active.

KILILI

From Page 1

when we need to improve our economy, we need to spend money we have," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sablan said moving and spending this $65 million would have more weight in generating new revenue to help save the CNMI economy, compared to selling public lands and pushing for casino gaming on Saipan which would generate a smaller amount of revenue and only years after it is legalized.

The delegate, however, is not opposed to Saipan casino gambling if it's properly planned and envisioned.

He said each casino license holder should be required to bring in an additional 200,000 tourists—inclusive of the gamblers and their families and friends—every year as a condition of renewing their annual license the following year, along with ensuring they pay their taxes.

"It doesn't matter whether one or five investors have all the five casino licenses, the number currently proposed. If the 200,000 tourists requirement is used as condition attached to issuing and renewing a license, that's when the whole CNMI economy will benefit. If you have five licenses, that's already 1 million tourists, compared to what we have now which is what, some 300,000," said Sablan, who is publicly sharing for the first time his views about proposals to legalize casino gaming on Saipan.

The delegate said casino operators could bring in this number of tourists by marketing and packaging the tours as part of a family tourism experience in the CNMI. For example, a father who is a gambler and who might also be a golfer would bring in his wife and two children who would engage in other tourist activities such as sightseeing and shopping.

"If one company can (bring in) 1 million tourists a year, it doesn't matter who gets the license as far as I'm concerned. What we need to do is create the Northern Marianas as a destination. Not as sometime that plans to compete with Macau, Singapore, or Las Vegas," he added.

Dr. Jack Angello, who is leading a campaign to gather signatures to put the Saipan casino question in the Nov. 6 ballot, is proposing a $5 million initial casino license fee to be paid within 90 days after the license approval and $200,000 in annual license fee every year thereafter.

Sablan believes that the existing casino petition is "shortsighted."

"We need to start thinking and doing things long-term. And what we need to do long-term for us is to develop the Northern Mariana Islands as a tourist destination, and just imagine if we triple our tourists using casinos as an impetus, we all benefit…(But) what did they do, they cut MVA's budget," he added.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial reduced the Marianas Visitors Authority's funding under the FY 2013 budget compared to 2012.

Sablan said the CNMI also continues to ignore the benefits of being included in the national food stamp program called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Under SNAP, food stamp benefits will increase by $12 million to $24 million, and the multiplier effect in the local economy will be some $20 million a year.

He also hopes that Saipan Air's launching in July will help boost tourism and the economy in general.

'Blame it on Fitial'

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), for his part, said he only has Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to blame for allowing $54 million in CIP money to remain unspent.

"For years, I have been asking the governor to hire a full-time CIP manager with expertise in procurement management even though the salary would cost $200,000 a year. That $200,000 a year would go a long way in helping the CNMI get $13 million to $14 million in CIP money annually instead of only $8 million-plus," Manglona said yesterday.

He said the more CIP money that the CNMI is unable to spend, the more it gets punished by having smaller amount of future CIP money.

"People are asking, what's wrong with the CNMI? People and the economy are suffering yet we do not spend millions of dollars in CIP to circulate within the economy, create jobs, and create multiplier effects," Manglona added.

Manglona said he is also still disappointed that the governor vetoed twice a bill that would pay workers involved in certain federal-funded projects the U.S. minimum wage.

"There's no one to blame for the unspent CIP money but the governor. He could have hired a full-time CIP program manager long time ago but he has not done so," he added.

The Fitial administration has yet to respond to questions about the unspent CIP and Federal Highway Administration funds.

But the CIP Office, one of the three agencies tasked to administer CIP funds, told the Senate in 2011 that $34 million of some $37.5 million in grant awards will be spent in FYs 2011 and 2012 to include the Puerto Rico Dump closure and construction of the Rota and Tinian landfills.

The CNMI's slow spending of CIP money has been believed to be a major factor in the CNMI's receipt of a steadily declining amount of CIP funding for years.

In fiscal year 2005, the CNMI's CIP funding was $12.5 million.

Five years later or in FY 2010, it was $11 million, before going down to $10 million in FY 2011, $9.5 million in FY 2012, and then to $8.7 million in FY 2013.

Sablan earlier said the Section 702 CIP grant represents only about 5 percent of all federal grant funds that the CNMI has been receiving. He said in FY 2010 alone, the CNMI received a total of $190 million.

"Nevertheless, we can ill afford this 30 percent drop in Covenant Funds between 2005 and 2013 so long as the need for 24-hour potable water, affordable power, solid waste facilities on Rota and Tinian, and adequate schools remain," Sablan had told Fitial, as he warned the governor about the risk faced by the CNMI in losing CIP money if it continues to have a CIP funding expenditure rate of below 50 percent.

The CNMI's rate of CIP money expenditure is at 36 percent, a slight improvement from 32 percent the previous year but still below the 50 percent threshold, Sablan said.

'Chaotic'

Sablan also said the CNMI is being run in a "chaotic" manner. This is because the government is run in several directions.

He is not saying that Fitial is the reason behind this "chaotic" leadership.

"What I'm saying is that we need to do everything we can to help improve the economy, and these are some of the things we need to do—spend the CIP money given to us, spend the Federal Highway money, put the CNMI in SNAP, and if we would have casinos on Saipan, do it properly," Sablan said.

Sablan said any federal bailout to save the economy won't be possible.

"It's not going to happen," he added.

The CNMI has a budget of only $102 million in FY 2012, less than half of what it used to have years back.

BOOKS

From Page 1

to Golden Harvest and Sinapalo Elementary School, which couldn't make it to the actual event and instead sent a DVD copy of their presentation.

Competing schools were judged based on closeness to time frame, costume depiction, enthusiasm of participants, vocal clarity, and adherence to the theme.

The panel of judges included PIC's Vicky Benavente, Delta Air Lines representative Esther Sound, and Kagman High School vice principal Leila Staffler.

Staffler, who served as the contest judge for the first time, commended the participants for their creativity and innovativeness in their presentations that depicted their chosen books and said all the winners were very deserving.

"They put so much hard work into the creativity of it all. It was amazing; I was blown away," Staffler told *Saipan Tribune*.

For her part, parade coordinator Reina Camacho said, "It's quite astonishing the creativity that comes out and I know it takes a lot of hard work and a lot of practice and I would like to extend my appreciation to the parents for allowing their kids to participate in this event because I also know it takes time away from family time and school work."

Camacho said they will continue to host the Annual Parade of Books and make it coincide with the Public School System's Library Week celebration.

Rotary president Pete Igitol believes that their organization accomplished their objective to promote literacy among students.

"I hope they continue to read. There's a lot of things you can find out through reading. The more they read, the more they learn and they can pass it on to others," he added.

VESSEL

From Page 1

a location where these military vessels may be repaired.

"With the impending buildup of military forces in our area as the U.S. realigns forces to focus on the strategic importance of Asia and the Pacific, I believe the Navy should have the option to repair its vessels in any U.S. jurisdiction, as H.R. 4338 would allow. While much work and public input would be needed before any shipyard is built in the NMI, this industry does have some potential for much-needed economic activity and job creation," Sablan said.

HR 4338 was referred to the U.S. House Committee on Armed Services on March 29.

CASINO

From Page 2

signatures to put the Saipan casino question in the Nov. 6 ballot.

Retiree Dr. Jack Angello, who is leading the signature drive, said yesterday that they will set up a table again on Wednesday, 5pm, at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan, where voters can sign the petition.

Angello said they are also calling all those with packets to come to the Carolinian Utt on Wednesday afternoon to turn in the signatures they have so far gathered so that they would be able to total count to date.

"So there are two purposes. One is to invite people to come and sign the petition. Two is to see where we stand and go from there. From what we've been hearing from people who are helping in gathering signatures, they have been getting good response," he added.

Angello and some pro-Saipan casino lawmakers resorted to popular initiative to push for casinos after two House bills legalizing casino gaming on Saipan was killed by the Senate, and one local bill was vetoed because of constitutionality issues.

The 22-page popular initiative requires a $5 million initial license fee to be paid within 90 days after the license approval and $200,000 in annual license fee every year thereafter.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and pro-Saipan casino lawmakers said legalizing casinos on Saipan will help restore 80 work hours biweekly, help prolong the NMI Retirement Fund's lifespan, help the Saipan scholarship program, and help resuscitate the CNMI economy, among other things.

LEGISLATURES

From Page 2

which ones among member-countries have outstanding obligations to the regional body.

The CNMI is one of the APPU member-countries with the lowest annual dues of $1,200, along with Guam, Kiribati, Mongolia and Tuvalu.

Countries with the highest annual dues are Japan, 1.2 million yen or approximately $14,833; China, $3,900; Korea, $3,900; Malaysia, $3,900; and the Philippines, $3,900.

The other APPU member-countries and their 2012 annual dues are the Marshall Islands, $1,800; the Federated States of Micronesia, $1,800; Nauru, $2,400; Palau, $1,800; Papua New Guinea, $2,000; the Solomon Islands, $1,500; Thailand, $3,600; Tonga, $1,800; Vanuatu, $2,400; Western Samoa, $1,800; the Cook Islands, $1,500; Fiji, $2,400; and Lao People's Democratic Republic, $2,000. Vietnam, meanwhile, is on observer status.

The CNMI hosted an APPU Council Meeting in June 1999 and 1982.

Established in 1965, the former Asian Parliamentarians Union, now APPU, accepted members from Pacific island nations in 1975, reflecting close relations between these two regions and strengthening solidarity and the force of freedom among their peoples.

It's not only the APPU that the CNMI owes annual membership dues to.

In June 2011, the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures also said the CNMI had yet to pay its 2010 and 2011 annual dues totaling $20,000, even as 11 lawmakers and Legislative Bureau staffers were off to attend an APIL general assembly to Palau that time. Lawmakers, however, made some payments to APIL later on.

RE/MAX Saipan franchise opens today

CLARISSA V. DAVID

RE/MAX Paradise Realty owner and franchiser Joe Ayuyu, center, is flanked by wife Marcia and daughter and office manager Mable in front of their office at the RJ Plaza Building across from Joeten Dandan.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

RE/MAX, the leading real estate company in the U.S., is opening its doors to the CNMI with the establishment of a franchise on Saipan to cater to people's real estate needs.

Behind RE/MAX Paradise Realty, which holds its grand opening today at the RJ Plaza Building across from Joeten Dandan, is no less than businessman Joe Ayuyu who has been involved in buying and selling properties.

"I've always utilized local real estate agents on island but it has always been my dream that one day, I would like to get a brand name real estate company out of the U.S. Finally, I was able to hook up with RE/MAX International," Ayuyu said in an interview.

Founded in 1973 by Dave and Gail Liniger, RE/MAX has developed from being just a single office to a global network of franchisees with over 100,000 agents in more than 80 countries.

RE/MAX, which stands for Real Estate Maximum, is renowned among property buyers and sellers for its red, white, and blue hot air balloon logo with the slogans, "Above the Crowd," "It's the Experience," and "Nobody in the World Sells More Real Estate than RE/MAX."

"I'm really, really excited about this opportunity to be part of RE/MAX because it's a well-known and very established company. RE/MAX is really the dominant player in the real estate business and they have a lot of resources to support their franchisees," said Ayuyu.

Ayuyu, who owns and operates various businesses on

See FRANCHISE on Next Page

Congratulations on your
Grand Opening
From the Staff and Management of McDonald's

i'm lovin' it
STORE HOURS: Chalan Pale Arnold Road: 6:30 AM to 10:00 PM • Garapan Express: OPEN 24 HRS. DAILY (24/7)
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$15.00 1 hour of full body massage
Promo is only valid for two (2) or more customers at a time.
$25.00 1.5 hours
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1st Floor, Saipan Gold beach Hotel (Beach Road, Garapan)

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"Find Out More"
at
Marianas Eye Institute
Join hundreds of others in the region who travel to Marianas Eye Institute to have their cataract care with Dr. David Khorram, listed in "Guide to America's Top Ophthalmologists." Dr. Khorram uses the Advanced Medical Optics Sovereign Phacoemulsification with Whitestar cataract removal system.
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Specializing in Diabetic Retinopathy Evaluation
Comprehensive Medical Eye Care
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We accept: Aetna, Staywell, Moylan's, TakeCare, Medicaid, Medicare, Calvos' and more.
If you can't pay for your care, the Eye Foundation Fund helps cover your costs.

Congratulations on your Grand Opening!
From the Staff and Management of
RJ CORPORATION

FRANCHISE

From Page 5

island including a fastfood restaurant and postal services, said he decided to open RE/MAX doors on island despite the real estate downturn and the overall economic slump in the CNMI because he believes that "this is the right time" to establish the business so they can be in a position to develop and expand once the economy turns around.

"Even in a down economy like this, there's still a lot of potential so I'm very positive about the whole thing," Ayuyu told *Saipan Tribune*. "There are still people who will be out there trying to sell their property, people looking around to buy a property. What we're bringing to the market is brand recognition and invaluable real estate professionalism."

Ayuyu noted that having a local RE/MAX office would promote the islands to the rest of the world, especially since the real estate company through the years has expanded globally, its span reaching as far as the Central and South America, Europe, Africa, Australia, and the Pacific region.

"At a time when all we hear is bad news and the real estate is down, it's good to bring in this brand name, a recognized name that will put the Marianas, especially Saipan, on the map," he added.

Ayuyu said they are expecting to deal with a lot of residential and commercial properties, as well as listings for many vacant properties, on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. He anticipates to market these properties using their international network.

The value of RE/MAX's international network also came in for Ayuyu as he was trying to set up the Saipan business. He said RE/MAX Paradise Realty has received training assistance from the Guam office. Moreover, Ayuyu attended a week-long training program for real estate professionals at the RE/MAX University in Denver, Colorado where he met with the Linigers.

RE/MAX Paradise Realty, which will start taking property listings on Tuesday, has five agents ready to offer property buyers and sellers with professional knowledge and services with a minimal commission.

"When they choose RE/MAX, they know they can trust our services which meet global standards and benchmarks. They know they're not just coming to an individual agent but an international company they can trust," said office manager Mable Ayuyu.

RE/MAX Paradise Realty is located at the RJ Plaza Building across from Joeten Dandan and is open Mondays to Friday, from 9am to 5pm. For more information, call 235-7629, fax 235-7678 or email remax-saipan@yahoo.com. Their website, www.remaxparadiserealty.com, will soon go online.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES

RFQ12-GOV-052

Puerto Rico Reservoir Replacement

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting statements of qualification (SOQ) from licensed architectural and engineering firms (A&E) for the Design of the Puerto Rico Reservoir Replacement Project, Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The full Request for Qualifications (RFQ) documents may be obtained by contacting Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager, by telephone at (670) 664-2274 or by email at psas@saipan.com. All questions concerning this proposal shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 pm, March 30, 2012 to Mr. Sasamoto by facsimile at (670) 664-2279.

The design and construction of the Puerto Rico Reservoir Replacement Project is made possible by a grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA), U.S. Department of Commerce. All elements of the construction process shall meet standards of the EDA. The EDA grant is matched by a grant from the Office of the Insular Affairs (OIA), U.S. Department of the Interior and requires a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) clearance.

One original and four (4) copies shall be submitted to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than **2:00 PM, (CNMI local time), on April 16, 2012**.

The SOQ shall be marked "**Puerto Rico Reservoir Replacement Project, RFQ12-GOV-052**". For firms within the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of SOQ must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on April 16, 2012**. Firms located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on April 16, 2012**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to **(670) 664-1515** or email procurement@pticom.com. For firms located outside the CNMI, one original and four (4) copies of SOQ must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **April 16, 2012** AND must be received no later than **April 25, 2012**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all SOQ and to waive any imperfections in any SOQ if to do so shall be in the best interests of the CNMI. All SOQ shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

/s/ **Benigno R. Fitial**
Governor, CNMI

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

PUBLIC NOTICE

DEQ RELEASES 2012 DRAFT WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT REPORT

The CNMI Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ), under the Office of the Governor, hereby notifies the public that the Draft 2012 Integrated Water Quality Assessment Report has been made available for public review and comment on DEQ's web page, www.deq.gov.mp.

Sections 303(d) and 305(b) of the U.S. Clean Water Act (CWA) require that all states, including the CNMI, monitor and assess all waters within the estate and report the results to the public, USEPA, and the U.S. Congress, public review is required and DEQ must address comments received by the public.

DEQ invites the public to review and comment on the 2012 Integrated Report, by submitting written comments in person to the DEQ office at the Gualo Rai Center on Middle Road (across from the Subway restaurant), by mail, or by e-mail to waterqualityreport@deq.gov.mp. E-mails contain the subject line "2012 IR Comments" or similar. All comments must be received by DEQ no later than April 18, 2012, in order for the comments to be considered by DEQ in preparation of the final Integrated Report. Mailed comments should be addressed to Mr. Frank Rabauliman, Director, Division of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950.

'No proposed Article 12 amendment at Nov. 6 election'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Robert A. Guerrero said he is not aware of any measure pertaining to amendment of Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution at the Nov. 6, 2012 election.

In a declaration filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Thursday, Guerrero said as of Feb. 13, 2012, there will not be any measure related to the amendment of Article 12 or Article 18 Section 5(c) on the next regularly scheduled election.

Guerrero said there is also no evidence that in the near term there will be a special election regarding amending Article 12 or Article 18 Section 5(c).

Article 12 limits landownership in the CNMI only to those of NMI descent.

Article 18 Section 5(c) states that "in the case of a proposed amendment to Article 12, the word 'voters' shall be limited to eligible voters under Article 7 who are also persons of Northern Marianas descent as described in Article 12 Section 4, and the term 'votes cast' as used in subsection 5(b) shall mean the votes cast by such voters."

The Office of the Attorney General submitted in court Guerrero's declaration in connection with a motion filed in John H. Davis Jr.'s lawsuit.

Davis sued Guerrero, the Commonwealth Election Commission, CEC chair person Frances M. Sablan, and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

Davis, a U.S. citizen, seeks to stop CEC from denying U.S. citizens who are not of Northern Marianas descent the right to vote on any issue regarding Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution or on any other issues.

Davis, a vice principal at Marianas High School, wants the court to declare that Article 18 Section 5(c) of the CNMI Constitution violates the 14th and 15th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution and is invalid, null, and void.

Last month, U.S. District Court for the NMI chief judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed Davis' lawsuit, but allowed him to amend the complaint. The plaintiff subsequently filed an amended complaint.

OAG moves to revoke bail of suspected 'ice' trafficker

The Office of the Attorney General has moved to revoke the bail of a suspected trafficker of methamphetamine or "ice" after his third-party custodian was recently arrested for allegedly burglarizing the Garapan Elementary School.

Assistant attorney general Shelli L. Neal asked the Superior Court to revoke and forfeit the $4,000 cash that defendant Sunzhen Lu had posted.

Neal requested the court to remand Lu into the custody of the Department of Corrections.

Last week, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo ordered Lu to provide a new third party custodian 24 hours before the next hearing.

Govendo ordered the parties in the case to appear on Wednesday, April 18 at 3:30pm, for a hearing on the motion to revoke bail.

Police arrested Lu on Jan. 2, 2012 for trafficking and illegal possession of controlled substance.

The Office of the Attorney General subsequently filed an information charging Lu with the same charges for selling $300 worth of "ice" on Dec. 31, 2011 on Saipan.

On Feb. 3, 2012, the court granted Lu's second application for bail modification by reducing the bail from $30,000 to $4,000 cash and approving John Reyes Jr. as third-party custodian.

Neal said that, on March 30, 2012, Lu's third-party custodian, Reyes, was arrested in connection with the Garapan Elementary School burglary.

Neal said Reyes violated the terms and conditions set forth by the court as the bail order required him to be able to supervise Lu and to report any violation.

Reyes, the deputy director of Division and Recreation, was arrested along with Mario O. Sablan, a staff at the same division, for allegedly burglarizing several classrooms and storage rooms at Garapan Elementary School and carting off more than $6,000 worth of equipment and other instructional materials on March 25, 2012. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Senate panel recommends confirmation of NMC appointee

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations is recommending full Senate confirmation of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's appointee to the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents.

Fitial re-appointed Elaine H. Orilla to serve on the NMC Board of Regents on March 13.

A month later or on April 11, the Senate EAGI Committee issued its report to the full Senate recommending Orilla's confirmation.

"After much deliberation and based on our overall assessment of Mrs. Orilla's credentials, experiences, testimonials and all other relevant issues considered, we are convinced beyond a doubt that Mrs. Orilla possesses the necessary qualification and leadership skills necessary to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents," said the EAGI Committee chaired by Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian).

The committee has yet to make a recommendation whether to support or reject the re-appointment of Sixto Igisomar to the NMI Retirement Fund board.

The panel report on Orilla comes three weeks after the Senate rejected two of Fitial's appointees to the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission and the Marianas Public Land Trust. Viola Alepuyo was supposed to serve another term on CPUC, while Gregoria Fitial-Omar was supposed to serve again on the MPLT board of trustees. Fitial-Omar is the governor's younger sister.

ATTENTION
All Softball Players/Teams

Kagman High School Junior Prom Committee will be hosting a Co-ed Softball Tournament on Saturday, April 21, 2012 at Capitol Hill Softball Field.

RULES

- $50 Unlimited Homeruns
- $100 Entrance Fee
- 1 hour limit
- 10 run rule
- Minimum of 2 females on the field and line up
- Regular Softball (batter automatically has 1 strike, 1 ball upon entering batter's box
- 6 pack homeruns $25.00
- Maximum of 12 players

PRIZES

- 1st Prize: 1 case ribs, 1 case chicken, 1 case of drinks
- 2nd Prize: 1 case ribs, 1 case chicken
- 3rd prize: 1 case ribs, 2 cases of drinks

Deadline to register: April 18, 2012

Contact Information:
Shaun Butters – 483-1653
Tyler Collins – tyler.collins@cnmipss.org
Pedro Tudela – 989-0274

Cheers for a better venture ahead!
May your business boom and grow with success!
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RE/MAX

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Lawmakers assure teachers refunds of their Fund contributions

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the Legislature assured public school teachers and employees that they could soon refund their employee contributions from the NMI Retirement Fund once a compromised bill is enacted into law in the next months.

House and Senate members announced this during Friday's legislative leadership summit conducted by the Public School System and the Board of Education where discussions centered on funding public education in the CNMI.

Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), chairwoman of the Senate committee on fiscal affairs, and House vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) announced that members of the bicameral conference committee have agreed to assist active members of the Fund to allow refunds of their employee contributions of up to 50 percent while the remaining 50 percent will be rolled over to the defined contribution plan with the condition that they don't need to resign from their posts. The lawmakers are referring to House Bill 17-226 which is pending at the Legislature.

They revealed that an agreement was reached to help members of the Fund and to be able to prolong the government pension agency's lifespan. Latest figures from Fund indicated that there are over 6,000 active and retirees in the plan. If enacted into law, this will be applicable to all active members in the plan.

Participants in Friday's event have expressed relief and described the announcement as "good news." Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan said PSS was very pleased upon hearing the support, pledges, and commitment made by the legislators in order to assist the system's employees and the students.

"That's a relief for us and we're very happy because we will be seeing a substantial savings in our personnel cost," she told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that PSS stands to generate $3 million savings, or $150,000 per payroll, from the measure.

PSS has recently conducted an employment renewal survey among its employees where it gauged that half of its employees under the DB plan have the desire to take out their contribution from the Fund.

In the survey, 737 or two-thirds of the entire PSS staff responded participated in the survey of which 91 percent indicated interest in renewing their contracts.

Saipan Tribune learned that 37 percent of the respondents are under the DB plan, and 50 percent of them indicated they want to withdraw their retirement contributions.

Under existing law, active members of the plan could only refund their contributions once they are separated from government service. They could only come back in the government sector only after six months of formal separation. This means, that most of PSS employees surveyed have the intention to resign or depart from the service—both certified and non-certified. Their planned departure is determined to bring adverse impact to the school staffing pattern.

According to Sixto K. Igisomar, former Fund chairman and among the guests in the summit, the compromised legislation will bring both positives and negatives. However, he said what's important is that this underwent proper debates, discussions, and consultations among parties.

"What's important here is everybody understands the goal of doing this," he told *Saipan Tribune*. In allowing withdrawals of contributions, he said this will lessen the liability of the Fund. However, Igisomar also noted the negative social impact it could bring to community members' future.

Man nabbed for sexual abuse

Police arrested on Thursday a man who allegedly sexually abused a 7-year-old girl at a residence in Chalan Kanoa.

Leonardo Lindo Jr. was arrested for sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo on Friday imposed a $25,000 cash bail for the defendant's temporary liberty.

There was no testimony or allegations that the defendant sexually assaulted the girl, thus the charge is sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

The defendant was taken to court for Gerstein hearing on Friday.

Gerstein hearing is conducted when the arrest of a suspect is done without an arrest warrant. In this proceeding, the judge will determine if there is probable cause to continue to detain the defendant.

Assistant attorney general Nicole Driscoll appeared for the government at the hearing. Assistant public defender Benjamin Petersburg served as counsel for the defendant. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Northern Mariana Islands
RETIREMENT FUND
"Investing For The Future Financial Security Of Our Members"

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission/Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund, are hereby giving notice that the Board of Trustees will hold its ***Special*** meeting **Tuesday, April 17, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.** at the **NMI Retirement Fund Conference Room, Saipan.**

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. OLD BUSINESS
IV. NEW BUSINESS
A. Federal Litigation Options
V. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VI. MISCELLANEOUS
A. Other Related Matters
B. Next Meeting
C. Adjournment

/s/ BERNADITA C. PALACIOS
CHAIRWOMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-12-014
SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF POWER DISTRIBUTION MATERIALS
(Obyan Overhead Power Line Extension Project)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Power Distribution Materials for the Obyan Overhead Power Line Extension Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-12-014, Supply & Delivery of Power Distribution Materials", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 2, 2012** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika.muna@cucgov.org or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen percent (15%) of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Payment and Performance Bond of one hundred percent (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods.

Bidders will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All inquiries with regards to this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **April 16, 2012** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika.muna@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Alfredo Palattao, Power Division Engineer via email alfredo.palattao@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-12-015

CALL CENTER SERVICES

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced firms to provide Call Center Services for CUC Departments and Operating Centers located on Saipan, Tinian and Rota in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package and Scope-of-Work may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $ 100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **April 19, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-12-015, Call Center Services", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **May 9, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Offerors will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing no later than **April 23, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org; Janina Muna, Purchasing Administrative Assistant via email address mika.muna@cucgov.org with a copy to Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all offers and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Apr. 16, 2002

Pete A. assures $11M in CIP funding

Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio assured that the U.S. Congress is supportive of President Bush's budget plan that seeks to maintain capital improvement assistance to the CNMI at $11 million in Fiscal Year 2003. "The U.S. Congress supports that. I don't see any resistance. The appropriate committees of Congress that are in-charge of this particular authorization and appropriation have no qualms about it. We're doing very well there," Tenorio said in a recent interview. He emphasized that the U.S. Congress fully understands the need for a full funding in the next fiscal year for capital improvement.

Babauta withdraws Maratita nomination

Gov. Juan N. Babauta has withdrawn his nomination of former senator Edward U. Maratita to the Board of Directors of the Commonwealth Development Authority. In a letter addressed to Senate Vice President David M. Cing dated April 12, the Governor said he is withdrawing Maratita's nomination after it came to his attention that the former senator is a client of the CDA. Legislative sources said this means that Maratita has an outstanding loan at the CDA and, if his nomination to the CDA Board is confirmed, this could result in a conflict of interest for the former lawmaker.

Apr. 16, 2003

NMIRF adopts new formulary

The NMI Retirement Fund's Board of Trustees has adopted a new formulary-a list of drugs covered under the Group Health and Life Insurance Program-to give its members more flexibility in their choices of prescription medicines.The new formulary, which was adopted during a special meeting yesterday afternoon, now goes to the Office of the Governor and the Attorney General's Office for approval. It becomes effective once the Executive Branch gives it the thumbs-up.The new list of covered drugs supplants the previous formulary that the Board adopted last March 18.

Babauta pins hopes on OTEC plan

The Babauta administration is not giving up on Sea Solar Power International's proposal to build a $50-million Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion plant in the CNMI, despite the controversy that has developed between the company's president and Saipan Senator Ramon S. Guerrero. (See related story on page 9) In a press statement, Gov. Juan N. Babauta pronounced yesterday that his administration has no intention of abandoning the exploratory project "before it even gets off the ground." "This administration is committed to exploring solutions that will benefit our islands for years to come. Ocean thermal energy conversion may very well provide the energy and fresh water that we will need as our population continues to grow," said the Governor.

Apr. 16, 2004

Babauta's IFP under scrutiny

The House Committee on Ways and Means would scrutinize the Integrated Fiscal Plan submitted by Gov. Juan N. Babauta to get a clearer picture of its potential impact on affected industries and consumers. Based on the proposal, the government anticipates to shake loose an additional $13.6 million under the IFP by increasing the nonresidents workers' fee by $100, increasing in drivers and motor-related fees by 50 percent and commercial transportation by 25 percent; reducing income tax rebates by 10 percent; increasing in hotel occupancy tax by 10 percent; and an increasing the user fee by .7 percent. House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial has begun soliciting comments from affected industries, particularly Saipan's apparel companies, since it would be affected by the nonresident workers' fee and the user fee hikes.

Babauta presents plaque to goodwill envoy

Gov. Juan N. Babauta presented a plaque on Monday to businessman Kunihide Miyake of Japan, who has been appointed goodwill ambassador for the Commonwealth. Miyake first visited the CNMI in February 2004 to consider the Commonwealth as a potential investment site for his business, United Power Co., which provides products in the fields of informational and telecommunications technology. The company has over 45,000 employees. "Mr. Miyake has since then frequented our islands, intrigued by its possibilities and its people. In the last two months, Mr. Miyake has made three trips to the CNMI," according to statement issued by the Office of the Governor.

Staff files amended suit vs THC acting resident director, 2 others

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An administrative officer of Tinian Health Center has sued THC acting resident director Freddy U. Hofschneider and two other THC employees for alleged conspiracy in misusing and abusing their authority.

THC administrative officer II Concepcion M. Manglona filed last week her first amended complaint in Superior Court against Hofschneider, Social Worker IV Thomasa I. Palacios, and surveillance coordinator Herman U. Hofschneider.

Manglona, through counsel Ramon K. Quichocho, also named Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and five unnamed persons as co-defendants in the suit.

Manglona is suing Freddy Hofschneider, Palacios, and Herman Hofschneider for denial of due process, and deprivation of property.

In addition, the plaintiff is suing Freddy Hofschneider and Palacios for unjust enrichment. She is suing Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. for negligent selecting, hiring, supervising, and retaining Freddy Hofschneider.

Manglona asked the court to hold the defendants liable to pay her damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

Asked for comments about the lawsuit yesterday, Freddy Hofschneider said the Office of the Attorney General is the one handling the case and that he has not seen the first amended complaint yet. *Saipan Tribune* tried but failed to contact Palacios and Herman Hofschneider.

According to Quichocho in the complaint, Freddy Hofschneider and the other conspiring defendants have created a "toxic environment" at THC.

Quichocho said for too long, Freddy Hofschneider has misused and abused his position to extort monies from various employees at THC and sometimes with the aid of the conspiring defendants.

Quichocho said when Manglona did not give Freddy Hofschneider the full amount that he was "borrowing," he conspired with other THC employees to suspend the plaintiff for 14 days without just cause or any factual basis, and without due process of law.

The lawyer alleged that Freddy Hofschneider is notorious for borrowing money from various THC employees, and if he does not get what he wants, he retaliates against the staff.

Quichocho said that, on Dec. 1, 2011, Manglona received a letter of suspension from duty from Freddy Hofschneider dated Nov. 29, 2011.

The letter informed Manglona that she was placed under suspension without pay for 14 days effective immediately for an alleged violation of the Personnel Service System Rules and Regulations.

Quichocho said the defendants have released the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act—protected confidential information of the concerned patient, to third persons.

Quichocho said that, on Dec. 9, 2011, Freddy Hofschneider wrote a letter informing plaintiff that they are retracting the letter that placed her under suspension without pay for 14 days.

The resident director also apologized to the "inconvenience and discomfort that was placed" on Manglona.

Quichocho said Freddy Hofschneider is a high school graduate, does not have a bachelor's degree, and is therefore, not qualified for the job.

The lawyer added that CHC did not publicly announce the position that Freddy Hofschneider now occupies.

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Opinion

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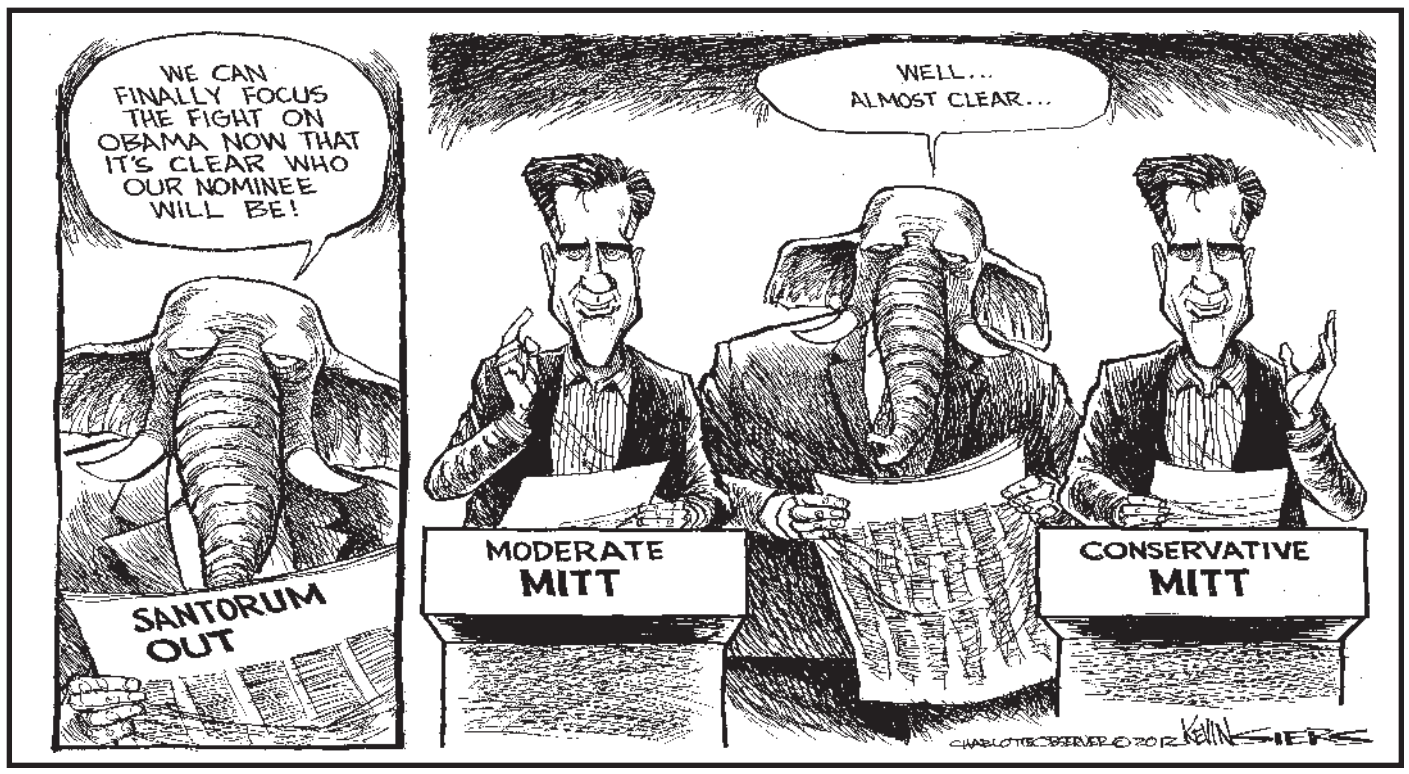

WE CAN FINALLY FOCUS THE FIGHT ON OBAMA NOW THAT IT'S CLEAR WHO OUR NOMINEE WILL BE!
SANTORUM OUT
WELL... ALMOST CLEAR...
MODERATE MITT
CONSERVATIVE MITT

Sumen makat na karera

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Sessu na tiempu man-fofu hit pot guaguan apas utilidat, hinemlu', gaselina yan prebension familia. Inatisa este 'nai ma-utot oran cho'chu' 'sino guaha mana fan para ginen i offisiun niha. Komprendiyon i minala'et gi publiku. Mas lokue' mala'et 'an talie' man-brabu na setbiente siha gi Hegsu' I Deni ma-usune man-losus dispues de amotsan talo'ane.

Hu komprende na ni unu siña tumulaika presiun bariles laña gi metkau elmundu. Lau kau este ha' uttimoña i asuntu ginen i mansabiu gi hegsu'? Taya' magahet otru chachalaña este pot para u maalibia i sapet gi publiku?

Ilegña i amiguhu Magoo na buente propiu yangin umekuñgog ham palabras siha ginen i umatrebi siha man-kandidatu na sakan. Ke lau yangin fatsu, magahet na u guaha lamauleg na ineppe ginen siha? Na ti man-yayas esta gi maripiten mismu gueku siha na offresimientu?

Lau yahu este na karera sa' siempre lamegai gumotde hila' niha gigun magu'ot i tubu. Oran chaleg ya nihe ta fan hita manmata'choñg ya ta ekuñgog i man-fatigau siha na kandidatu. Tarehata mañaleg na biahe; pues namafñot sinturon miyu!

■■■

Ha faisenyu' un' hobensitu hafa sustansiaña kutturan man-ñgiñge' gi tradision natibu. Tatnai magahet 'nai hu guadog i meritun asuntu fuera ke respetu para i man-amko'ta. Ha sablasusyu: na ti magahet na i respetu mafattu ginen dos chalan gi hechuran fan respeta ya un' marespeta? Buena! Na ti finañagu este ni Dies Na Tinagu' Yuus: Onran mañainamu yan muñga machogue' gi otru haf' tiyamu na un' machogue mismu?"

Ha luñu mas i kuestion: Yangin i respetu debi un' gana yan mirse, haf' na kulan mohon man-ninae' i man-amku' tai achaigua na atoridat? Fotte 'nai ha estomaguyu' i prohimu. Lau hu esplika gi taiguine: I sensian respetu guahu lokue' hu hoñge na debi un' gana ya un' mirese. I kutturan man-ñgiñge' ala kuenta para uma-echa i patgon bendision ya u felis kareraña estake u echu tautau. Estague' kulan un' sensian yine'ase' gi man-amku' para i famaguon siha.

Ya i kumomite che'chu' kriminat tat kumu man-estane minot na idat patgon? Hu oppe na haf" bidaña ayu na amku' sahñge yan i faktu na amkugue' ke hagu. Ti destrosiau i relasion miyu yan lokue', seguruyu' na guiya mismu i prohimu dañkulu na sinetsut gi kada biahe 'nai tumekun hau man-ñgiñge'. I mauleg na intensioña un' nesessita ti hafa makondenaña.

Magahet na gai ginaddon i kuestion siha ni ha dagauyu' pot manñgiñge'. Lau konfotme lokue' na mauleg na tradision natibu ya debi u mapraktika diariu. Estague' sumepara patgon yan amku', un' pisu 'nai un' rikohe mas bendision para fitme na karera.

■■■

Mampos malahyu i chaguan yan tinanom siha maseha manu guatu. Para hafa hit nu i hinemlu ekonomia sa' kakantu l para maenteru. Un' adeñg gi hiyoñg ata'ut, i otru gi sanhalom. Gigon lotgun i adeñg sanhiyoñg magpu' i nobena.

Taya' remediu pagu fuerake para ta fan ñgaha' hulu' gi Saina ya u esgaihon i batkota mona para i halom katma na tasi maseha gi hechuran konsuelu. Todu klasen atte guaha pagu deste propositon para umabenden ñaihon tanu' publiku yan mapatten ti'au i gananSian MPLT.

See SUMEN on Next Page

Why I enjoy living on Saipan?

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

During these desperate times it is vital that I remind myself why I enjoy living on Saipan. Once I remind myself of the reasons, I must fight to maintain them against anyone who is trying to destroy them.

During these stressful times when most of us are gripped with fear, anxiety, and depression, it is important to come to terms with them and ourselves or we will panic and run away. We must keep our heads cool and weather the storms buffering us. Which brings me to why I like living in Saipan?

In 1984, I discovered this land of enchantment, this land waiting to spring forth and become a budding flower of the Pacific Ocean. Upon my arrival in January, 1984, I marveled at Saipan's natural beauty with its acres of diamonds waiting to be mined. After living in Hawaii for 10 years, I turned my back on it and moved to my new found home—Saipan!

Here I discovered warm and friendly people. Today I cannot walk 10 steps without someone smiling, nodding and saying, "Hello!" My biggest embarrassment is that many times after he or she passes, I scratch my head and wonder: "Where do I know that person from?" But in apology, I often tell people that I have seven holes in my head—two eyes, two ears, two nostrils, and a mouth—everything flows out so I remember little.

Where else do people smile so often and acknowledge one another? This warm feeling cannot be bought at any price in any other place. I have not found such friendliness in other places where I have lived such as Tokyo, Honolulu, New York. Here we seem less hurried and less pushy. We understand the value of family, friends, and the needs of one another. Here we seem to feel more compassion for each other more that I have felt in other places I have visited or lived in.

The skies are eternally blue and the clear ocean reflects the beauty of its bottom. I marvel at the mountain slopes majestically rising heavenward encircling the island. Hopefully we will maintain all this pristine beauty and not destroy it with our desire to develop the island into a concrete jungle. Simply put the combination of natural beauty and friendly people are the two main reasons for living here.

However, immense changes are taking place daily. Ones that unless we learn to understand them and their consequences we might just lose all we love. Change and improvement can come only after sincere introspection. Let us understand that the islands themselves have not changed, but we have. The world around us has. We also are seeing some negative changes such as daily pollution of our lagoon and some of our beaches. Sadly, our political arena which should have changed has not. This too is a major negative.

The CNMI today is not the CNMI of the Trust Territory days. Most of our former leaders are not with us. We owe them gratitude for the great job they did in charting the original course. It is we, the descendants and new comers, who must chart the new directions demanded by inevitable change. As the Japanese poet Matsu Basho advised: "Do not seek to follow in the footsteps of the men of old; seek what they sought."

Here I also have found a diversity of ethnic nationalities. All of them try to blend while offering various backgrounds and cultures. Saipan is a true potpourri of nationalities. Each nationality brings its own food, play, and culture. This is one of my true delights for living here.

However, one of my dreams someday is to see various nationalities in our Legislature and administration just like I experienced in Hawaii. While there I witnessed a Hawaiian governor, a Filipino governor, a Japanese governor. And now there is an American governor. Their legislators have various national backgrounds as well. It is inevitable this too will come to pass in our CNMI. I feel that one of the strong points of any country is to have citizens of various nationalities share in the governance of the community.

One of the lesser mentioned reasons for enjoying living in Saipan is its proximity to countries such as China, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, and other nearby interesting countries. If we prefer we can escape for a weekend to any of them easily and quickly. We are only a stepping stone to most of the world's most interesting cultures.

I could rave on and complain about the things I don't like about Saipan such as too much nepotism, favoritism, and other negative things, but then where else in the world don't some of these exist? The best is to keep my opinions to myself and find other activities to counteract them.

Many an evening I sit on my front porch and gaze at the setting sun and thank God for the home I have found here. I ask yourself why I live here—I migrated here. This activity is very important especially at this time.

Our love for our islands must not flicker. We created whatever mess we are in and we must clean it up. Let us temper our anger and frustration with creative action. Let us no longer tolerate the abuses and the corruption heaped upon us. Let us educate ourselves to what we want. Anger will not solve our problems, but determination and corrective action will.

Daily we must flow with change. And this change starts with us. Let us realize that Federalization will create great opportunities as well as confusion for all of us. It is a major change. But with change comes fear. Let us wrestle with this fear. We can overpower it.

Guam has been under stricter U.S. regulations for a longer time than we and look how prosperous it has become. We can enjoy the same benefits if we understand how to work them. All change says: "There is a better way to enjoying life." We must not live in the past but adapt to the changes. If we fail to we will become fossils.

As I mentioned earlier my reasons for living here, examine what yours are and be willing to fight to keep them. If our reasons are meaningful, let's fight for them and accept the necessary changes occurring daily. Today is the gateway to a glorious tomorrow. Come! Let us put our fears away, roll up our sleeves and begin. Let's walk hand in hand towards a better tomorrow together.

Saipan is only as good as we make it. Curse those who abuse it and shame it. Combined together Saipan, Tinian, and Rota make up three of the most glorious gems in the Pacific Ocean. Now if only we don't pollute them.

In closing remember: With all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful CNMI! Be careful. Strive to be happy! I cannot think of a better place to live in then where I am now—Saipan!!

Keep SMILING! Watch the magic it performs. Have a great week!

Letters to the Editor

State-of-the-art or limited emergency-care-only CHC?

As the new director of Medical Affairs at the Commonwealth Health Center Corporation, I wanted to take the time to address some concerns held in the community, in the government, and among our staff alike. Transitions are difficult for any corporation, and since around mid February we have been riding an emotionally charged financial roller coaster.

So far we have maintained all critical services. We are working overtime to ensure that we continue to provide the standard of care in all of these services. There have been some close calls. There have been some resignations. But overall, we are dedicated to the community and will do what what we can to keep these doors open.

But this community deserves more than just urgent and emergency care. We have ambitious plans for revitalizing our outpatient services, partnering with current resources in the community, tapping into new models of care that focus on prevention and wellness. These are cost effective ways of maintaining the health of our community, and are self-sustainable. We have exciting plans in the pipeline, but we are mired in the act of putting out fire after fire due to insufficient funds. We are trying to get past the emergencies so we can reorganize for success, gain some traction, and start picking up speed.

This brings us to the recently aired issue of the ICS contract. I want to assure you that our intentions behind this contract are genuine. Louis Kraml, the CEO of BMH, has already provided substantial expertise and has invigorated our billing process in mere weeks-all in good faith with the CNMI. We desperately need his services. He is knowledgeable, credible, and charitable. He has worked with failing healthcare institutions throughout rural Idaho. We need to bring in resources like him to the CNMI. We have references to back this up I know there are questions. I know there are concerns. There are a few things that we need to clarify. Please bear with us as we work to create an open, honest, and efficient system, for vetting these contracts. If needed, we can put together a public document that clarifies these concerns in detail.

This brings us to the question of how we bring in the expertise required to make quality health care in the CNMI a reality. Currently we are tasked with:

"rely[ing] upon Commonwealth procurement and supply regulations or adopt[ing], pursuant to Commonwealth law, procurement and supply regulations..." (PL 16-51, pg 4, line 28-29)

In February, the governor was filing the state of emergency for the hospital, and we felt we had to move forward with this contract in order to ensure that we had access to a consistent funding stream that would allow us to keep our doors open through the fiscal year. What we may have failed to do, was submit the documentation necessary to justify our emergency need. We are willing to work with our legal counsel to address this and ensure that this much needed ICS contract is properly procured.

Currently we have an urgent issue at hand. The current billing contract that we have with GMCA was made for a different era. It is unfavorable to our current operations at CHCC, and does not include the helpful supporting role that ICS promises that will help us restructure and help us maintain our fiscal due diligence. We need a new contract, and we need to determine the process to do this. If it requires the AG to sign it, as our legal counsel, great! Let's work together. If it involves further procurement review, then let's expedite it on an emergency basis. We are at the point where, if we can finalize this contract, we can start having revenue flowing in as soon as tomorrow. This is money that we have rightfully earned, and desperately need. The MPLT allotment that was due to come to us last week, that we are currently paying interest on, is mired in red tape. We need that allotment, and a billing contract in place by this Friday for payday.

Dear community of CNMI. This is your hospital. It is time to decide. Do we want a state-of-the-art health system that brings growth and esteem to the CNMI? Or are we content with letting CHC collapse into a limited emergency-care-only center? The potential is here for either path—but there is only a small window of opportunity left for the greater way. It is time to decide. We have located the resources that can help make CHCC into a reputable regional medical center, and for one reason or another, the resources remain just beyond our reach. We are hoping to be allowed to do the job we have been hired or appointed to perform. We want to be open. We want to be legal. We are awfully busy, but we will continue to strive to improve our communication with the public, because we desperately need and ask for your support in creating sustainable and quality health care for the CNMI. We must clear up the MPLT and the ICS contract by Friday. I urge you to contact your elected and appointed representatives, including the governor and attorney general to voice your concerns and needs for the Commonwealth Health Center Corporation.

Jeremy Richards, MD
Director of Medical Affairs, CHCC

SUMEN

From Page 10

Sen umaya i man-mapropopone pagu sa' puru puntan gui'eñg na atte siha. Ni unu malagu' matachoñg papa' yan satton na diniseha plumanuye futuron iya Marianas. Puru pagu kontra bende yan patten ti'au. De dios mihu! Na ti ta apapase este siha para u hasuye hit antau na programan benefisiun mayotmente?

■■■

Haye' ha' un' soda na empleau gobietnu na tiempu mampos atalag, suspichosu yan espantau. Hu akanteha hafa guaha na taiguihe mañan niha. Ilegña i unu: "Hu espipiha hafa na prinsipiu ha praktitika i gobietnu 'sino ha dulalag talo'ane-yu' taimanu ha' i bidaña gi alacha ni dos sekretarian depattamentu". Sinañgane ni amiguña, "Muñga nina' puti estomagumu. Dililiñg un' mantikan mahoñgañg yan katnen guaka ya un' tampe sekosña". Lamegai na empleau pagu' marikononose haf' na galun gaige gi mañgas chininan niha.

■■■

Guaha un' patte giya Tokyo, era tres pisun achu' gi papa' tasi, mapupulan pagu pot mapredikta na gigon man-atotpe siempre u fattu i mas dañkulu na linau yan hinalom tasi. Este i tres pisun achu' 'nai ma-u'udai iya Filipinas, Asia yan Pasifiku.

Yangin u atotpe, pues pot miyas na lineka' paderon para u poduñg esta i fondu. Gigon ha danche i fondu, ha choneg fuestsau napu ni man-loka'. Mas ke 30 pe linaneka' niha este siha ya u falagu halom gi tanu gi kase 500 miyas gi ora. Kontodu Marianas debi u satton pumulan este na asuntu pot preparasion.

■■■

Hu e'ega' un' pueñge Discovery Channel pot siklun linala' satmon. Mapulakes, dispues sige papa' gi tasi, luma'la yan dañkulu. 'Nai tiempun mañada, sige hulu kontra finalagon sadog estake mattu gi chiña. Gigon mañada', umatlibes ya matai. Un' finalagu ha' este na karera para i satmon. Ti numa'lu tatte gi tasi estake oran mañada' ta'lu gi otru sakan. Matai!

Mampos fuetsudu munañgu hulu' kontra i milag sadog ya ti papara estake mattu gi chiña. I chada' ni ha lagnos ti apmam man-mapulakes dispues duru papa' para i tasi. Megai kuestion gi hinasoghu haf' na taiguihe ayu na guihan. Lau naturat na finatinas i Saina ya taya' ni unu siña tumulaika taimanu 'nai ha pega i Amku' i satmon siha. Magahet na namatman i siklun hinanau satmon.

■■■

Pot Ositan: Malie' ni polisian i White House un' tautau ni gumalope i kelat ya duru malagu. Madulalag ya mamantene. Masoda' na i presidente as Obama. Mañañgon na cha'ña falalagu sa' fafatta un' añu ha' tetehnan tetminoña. A` Saina!

■■■

Man-repot un' palao'an na gaige i buttun Jesukristu gi mita' kandetña. Megai tumesteguye ayu na sinisede. Dispues ma-agañg un' electrician para u rikonose i mita'. Finaisen ni palao'an hafa mohon kumeke ilegña ayu na sinisede. Ilegña i electrician: "Kase malago' i Saina na un' apase dibimu sa' mampos esta megai ya munana' setbe hau dibatde elektrisida". A' Saina!

Growing up with a sibling with autism

My name is Nakita Cabrera and I am currently a student at the University of Guam. Since 2009, my parents and I have started a tradition in which one of us submits a letter to the editor in honor of my brother, Nicholas, and autism awareness.

This year I decided to write about my childhood and what it was like growing up with my brother. I am sure the general public is now aware of the meaning of autism, but most do not realize the amount of patience needed to be able to understand individuals with this disability.

My parents and I have learned to develop patience because of my brother, but I did not always have the amount of patience that I have now. As a child, I did not accept the fact that Nicholas was different. I was ashamed and embarrassed whenever we were in public. I hated the fact that people would stare and talk. I hated knowing that people would make rude comments or would mock him. I hated everything about the idea that my brother was different from everyone else.

For many years I was not accepting of my brother, and unfortunately, those negative feelings lasted until junior high. I remember questioning why my life had to be different, and to this day I wish I had not been so negative. I wish I had been more understanding of who my brother was and how special he really is to my family. Since I was little my classmates thought that I was an only child. I could not blame them though because I never mentioned anything about having a brother, especially a brother with autism.

Whenever they would question me about why we did not attend the same school, I felt completely ashamed having to explain the fact that my brother was at another school and under the special education program. The embarrassment of having to say those words was the hurt that I felt for having a brother that was different. And because I disliked the fact that my brother was different, I felt that I was different as well.

As I grew older, I still had those negative thoughts and feelings. I also spent a lot of time with my friends. It was a way for me to forget about everything that I had to deal with at home. It was a way for me to be somewhat normal. Towards the end of my high school years, more and more people started to hear about my brother having autism. People were even curious of what autism was all about, and would ask me questions about it. I was actually starting to feel more comfortable talking to others about my brother. I was actually growing less ashamed and growing more comfortable being in public with him. I was finally accepting of who my brother is as a person.

Why the sudden change of heart though? Well, everything changed the day I thought I was going to lose my brother forever. I would like to call it a rude awakening, but it was definitely something that I needed. The summer after I graduated from high school, I started to spend more time with my family since it was the summer before I started college. Everything we did, we did as a family. Fathers Day was no different. I remember everything so clearly. We had decided to go to the movies after having lunch at McDonald's (one of my brother's favorite places to eat). I remember thinking that this Fathers Day was perfect, but I guess I had spoken too soon. At the end of the day, everything seemed to fall apart. From my room I heard my mother's voice, screaming my name. I walked outside to see her on the floor, crying in front of my brother. She looked up at me, her eyes filled with tears, and I looked down and saw my brother having a seizure. Seeing my brother in that condition broke my heart to pieces. He did not look himself and the image of him in that state haunts me today.

I remember panicking and running out of the house looking for my father. The next thing I knew, the ambulance came and we were on our way to the hospital. Let me make this clear by saying that I know seizures are not as fatal or as tragic as illnesses or even death, but never in my life had my brother been in that condition. I did not know whether or not it could have affected his brain. Never in my life had I been that worried and scared for my brother. Also, the fact that my brother is nonverbal made me worry for him even more. Because my brother is nonverbal, he was not able to tell us about the pain he was feeling, or what had happened prior to the seizure.

From that night on, I knew that things had to be different between me and Nicholas. I knew I had to somehow forget about the way I felt or acted in the past and focus on building a stronger relationship with him. I wanted us to become close, and I wanted him to completely trust me and turn to me for help. That night was my rude awakening, and I knew that I did not want to see another incident like that happen knowing that our relationship was not as strong as how I wanted it to be. It is very common for children and adults with disabilities to have seizures at some point in their lives. Unfortunately, some have to deal with seizures their entire life. It broke my heart seeing him in that condition, it broke my heart seeing them take him away in an ambulance, and it broke my heart seeing him in that hospital bed. For a few seconds I thought I was going to lose him forever.

I share this story for many reasons. First, I wanted to share my experience growing up with a sibling with autism. I wanted to share how difficult it was for me, and how life changing it was to have possibly lost the only sibling I had.

Second, I wanted to share to those who also have a sibling/s with autism that there is no need to be ashamed of your brother/s or sister/s. As siblings, we need to be there for them to help them, protect them, and guide them through life because they need our help to live each day as normally as possible. Aside from our parents, we should have strong relationships with our sibling/s because no one understands them as much as we do. Yes, it will be difficult, but I believe that we were given this journey for a reason. It is up to us to help our brother/s and sister/s live each day as we would for ourselves.

Third, I wanted the general public to be aware and accepting of autism. The more understanding and accepting we are of those with autism, the easier it will be for them to live in this world. We must all develop patience to understand these unique individuals. I believe that my brother has taught me to be patient, not only with him, but with others as well. Individuals with autism have a more difficult way of living life, but that is only because they were created in a different and special way.

I speak on behalf of my brother that those with autism want to be accepted in our society, to be loved by our family and friends, and to be guided through life each day. Let us not only use this month to celebrate autism awareness, but let us use this awareness as the first step in helping those, like my brother, feel welcomed in our schools and communities. Most especially, let us help those with autism feel welcomed throughout the CNMI.

Nikita Cabrera
Via email

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

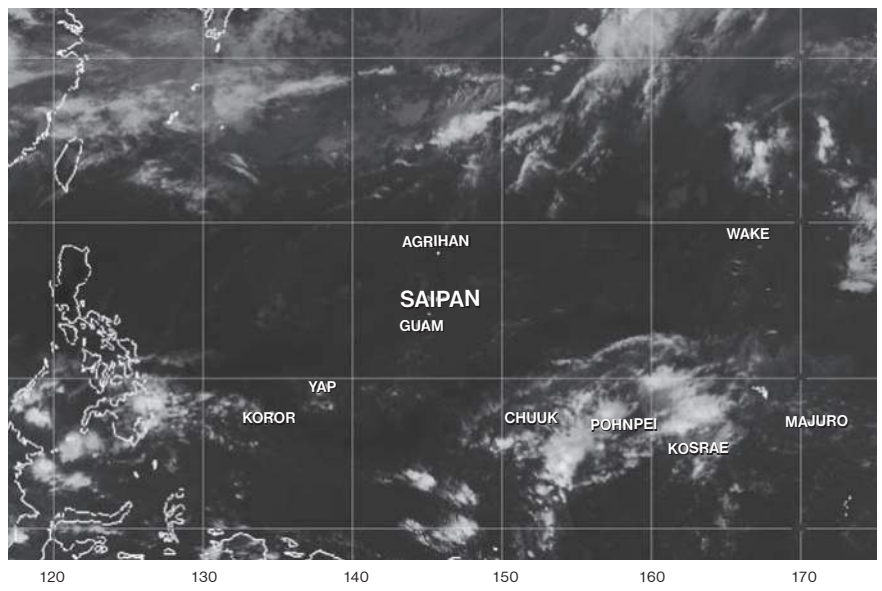
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲87	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲88	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲90	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼55
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼47
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲76	▼73
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼71
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲51	▼36
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲72	▼53
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲93	▼79
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼51
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	▲81	▼72
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼58
Osaka	Showers	▲61	▼53
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲55	▼36
Pusan	Sunny	▲61	▼49
Rome	Showers	▲67	▼50
Salem	Showers	▲57	▼44
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼52
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲64	▼43
Tokyo	Showers	▲62	▼55
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼65

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front curves west-southwestward from 25N145E to beyond 130E at 24N. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring near Iwo To island along and north of the front to beyond 25N. A surface trough west of 130E is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms west of Koror west of a line from 9N134E to 5N134E. Another surface trough stretches northeastward from 1N151E to 8N154E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found between Chuuk and Pohnpei between 3N and 9N from 152E to 158E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers near Kosrae and east of Pohnpei within 120 miles of a line from 10N161E to 5N164E. An upper-level trough extends northeastward from 21N166E to 25N172E. Divergent winds east of the trough are producing isolated thunderstorms north of Wake Island north of a line from 22N165E to 22N169E and east of Wake Island within 150 miles of a line from 20N174E to 16N174E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:45 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:56 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
5:16 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
11:47 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:02 AM	6:32 PM
Tuesday	6:02 AM	6:32 PM
Wednesday	6:01 AM	6:32 PM
Thursday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:25 AM	2:29 PM
Tuesday	3:05 AM	3:18 PM
Wednesday	3:43 AM	4:06 PM
Thursday	4:20 AM	4:54 PM
Friday	4:58 AM	5:42 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7
DL581	4:10am	7:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05076/147	3:10pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:50pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
DL286	7:40pm	12:20am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
DL580	10:10pm	2:55am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Federal, local authorities spearhead drive vs prescription drug abuse

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

◀ Federal and local officials pose for a group photo after Friday's news briefing on the National Prescription Drug Take Back Initiative on April 28, from 10am to 2pm. In photo are, left to right, Customs officer John Paul Sabn, acting Public Safety Commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro, Drug Enforcement Administration resident in charge for CNMI and Guam Mike Puralewski, U.S. Attorney Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, Hospital Services director Karen Buettner, and Capt. Lawrence Camacho.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Results of surveys conducted on a national level have revealed "very disturbing" statistics on prescription drug abuse among young people in the U.S., prompting federal and local authorities to rally behind prescription drug abuse prevention and control in the CNMI.

In 2008, a survey showed that prescription drugs are the top choice among 12 to 13 year olds and that 4 out of 10 teens believe that prescription and over-the-counter medicines are less addictive and dangerous than street drugs—a misconception that could lead to addiction or death among the youth.

That is why the U.S. Attorney's Office is joining forces anew with the federal Drug Enforcement Agency, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Department of Public Safety, and the CNMI Customs Services Division for the National Prescription Drug Take Back Initiative.

The initiative, which began in 2010 and is held at least annually, is aimed at providing community members an opportunity to get rid of expired or unused prescription drugs by turning them in for proper disposal.

Representatives of the various agencies a news briefing last Friday announcing details about this year's event, which will be held on April 28 from 10am to 2pm at the Horiguchi Building parking lot on Saipan and the Tinian and Rota health centers.

Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, U.S. Attorney for CNMI and Guam, said the initiative helps promote education and awareness in the community, particularly among the youth, regarding prescription drug abuse, an issue that affects not only public health and safety but the environment as well.

According to Limtiaco, the youth abuse prescription drugs due to various reasons, including wanting to fit in or accepted, coping with stress, depression and anxiety, weight control, and self-medication.

"Most of these teens are obtaining these prescription drugs from their own household, from their own medicine cabinets," said Mike Puralewski, DEA resident in charge for CNMI and Guam. "It's why we ask parents to go through their medicine cabinets and pull out unused, unneeded or expired prescription drugs."

Karen Buettner, director of hospital services, noted that sharing of medication is also not advisable for several reasons such as allergies, disproportionate dosages, and pre-existing conditions that could be dangerous and fatal.

There are practical home tips, Limtiaco said, that would prevent prescription drug abuse among the youth. These include removing drugs from medicine cabinets and hiding or locking them away, monitoring quantities of prescription drugs, taking inventory and controlling access on these prescription drugs.

Officials at Friday's news briefing urged the public to bring to their drop off points bottles of these prescription drugs which will be incinerated to ensure proper disposal. "No questions will be asked," Puralewski added.

Limtiaco said National Prescription Drug Take Back Initiative in CNMI and Guam hauled 136 lbs of prescription drugs last April and another 94 lbs last October. "The more we spread the word, the more we see our community coming out and turning in prescription drugs."

Ray LaHood is UOG commencement speaker

MANGILAO, Guam—Ray LaHood, the U.S. Secretary of Transportation, will give the commencement address during the University of Guam's spring commencement ceremonies on May 27, 2012.

Ray LaHood is one of 15 members of President Obama's Cabinet, which includes the Vice President and the heads of 15 executive departments — the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Labor, State, Transportation, Treasury, and Veterans Affairs, as well as the Attorney General. "We are very pleased to have Secretary LaHood as our commencement speaker," said University of Guam President Robert A. Underwood. "This is the first time in the history of the institution that we will have a Cabinet level official as commencement speaker. His acceptance of our invitation coincides with our 60th anniversary celebration and brings a new and exciting perspective to our commencement ceremonies."

LaHood

LaHood became the 16th Secretary of Transportation on Jan. 23, 2009. In nominating him, President-elect Obama said, "Few understand our infrastructure challenge better than the outstanding public servant that I'm asking to lead the Department of Transportation."

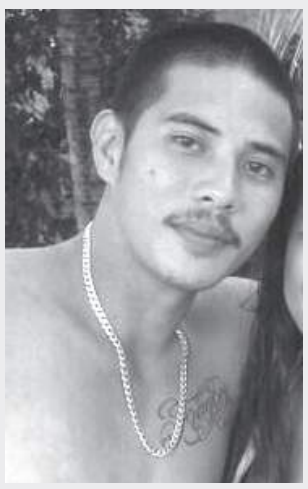
LaHood's primary goals in implementing President Obama's priorities for transportation include safety across all modes, restoring economic health and creating jobs, shaping the economy of the coming decades by building new transportation infrastructure, and assuring that transportation policies focus on people who use the transportation system and their communities.

As Secretary of Transportation, LaHood leads an agency with more than 55,000 employees and a $70 billion budget that oversees air, maritime and surface transportation missions.

LaHood said he would bring President-elect Obama's priorities to the department and see them effectively implemented with a commitment to fairness across regional and party lines and between people who come to the issues with different perspectives.

Before becoming Secretary of Transportation, LaHood served for 14 years in the U.S. House of Representatives from the 18th District of Illinois (from 1995-2009). During that time he served on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and, after that, on the House Appropriations Committee. Prior to his election to the House, he served as chief of staff to U.S. Rep. Robert Michel, whom he succeeded in representing the 18th District, and as District Administrative Assistant to Rep. Thomas Railsback. He also served in the Illinois State Legislature.

Spring 2012 commencement ceremonies will be held May 27 at 2pm in the UOG Field House. ***(UOG)***



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 21st birthday to our brother Joshua Diaz Lizama from Dandan who is celebrating his birthday today, April 16, 2012. We want to wish you a happy birthday and many more to come. May God bless you on your special day and guide you through your journey everyday of your life. Drink up, live it up, and enjoy. Stay safe we love you from Craig and Martinie Calvo (Guam)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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AMENDED NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for **RESTROOM REPAIRS AND WATER PUMP IMPROVEMENTS** at the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP 3-69-0002-62/65/67 (CPA-SA-002-09),** will be received at the office of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950.

All bids will be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Saipan International Airport Restroom Repairs and Water Pump Improvements, AIP 3-69-0002-62/65/67 (CPA-SA-002-09)" and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2012**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The project, in general, consists of two (2) groups: Project 1 is existing restroom repair such as replacement of doors, plumbing fixtures, floor and wall tiles, ceilings, and all toilet accessories; mechanical fixtures; electrical fixtures; replacement of the existing hydro-pneumatic tank; mechanical rehabilitation and replacement of the existing water pump motor and controls, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications, and Project 2 is a Design-Build of Restroom I in accordance with the Design/Build Concept Plans and Specifications. Bidders are reminded that the Construction Management (CM) team is not available for design services for Project 2.

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **THREE HUNDRED SIXTY (360) CALENDAR DAYS**. Liquidated damages of **FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($500.00)** shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP-70-25 of the specifications.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", as contained in the bid proposal documents, with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the bid proposal and contract documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS ($150.00)** for each set of plan documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, ~~**10:00 AM, FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2012**~~, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. All prospective bidders are required to attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rates established by CNMI Law or Federal Law, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by US Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **TEN PERCENT (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Chairman of the Board/Contracting Officer

Date: April 10, 2012

Business

Drought, falling tourism threaten Morocco economy

RABAT, Morocco (AP)—Morocco's new Islamist government finally passed its 2012 budget last week—four months late—while outside parliament hundreds of unemployed protesters demanding government jobs clashed with police.

Long seen as a haven of stability and relative prosperity in North Africa, this close U.S. ally has a rough year ahead. Its budget is overstretched, its farm fields drought-stricken, its credit rating is wobbly, and economic crisis is hobbling its closest trading partners in Europe, even as protests by disgruntled Moroccans are on the rise.

Morocco escaped much of the unrest linked to the Arab Spring elsewhere in North Africa, where the governments of Libya, Tunisia and Egypt all fell, but it could face new troubles this year. The Islamist government elected in November has to pay off a heavy bill of salary increases and promised new government jobs made by its predecessors.

Meanwhile, the skies and Morocco's northern neighbors have made things even worse than originally expected.

Abdelilah Benkirane's government came in with a five-year plan predicting 5.5 percent growth, which it then had to revise downward at the beginning of the year to 4.2 percent. Then at the end of March, the central bank, noting the crisis in Europe and impending drought, cut its own predictions to less than 3 percent.

It was a long way from the past several years of around 5 percent growth buoyed by a string of excellent rains. This year, the harvest is dramatically down and sectors like tourism are suffering as well, as European tourists tighten their belts and forgo Moroccan vacations.

"The main engines of the Moroccan economy are in the process of running out of steam," said Najib Akesbi, an economist with the Hassan II Institute of Agronomy in Rabat.

Morocco remains reliant on agriculture, which makes up 15 percent of the gross domestic product and is almost entirely rain-fed.

In a report from mid-March, the U.S. Embassy estimated that the total cereal harvest would not exceed 3.2 million tons, a sharp drop from 8 million tons in 2011.

"The crops this year suffered not just from drought but from freezing conditions—abnormally low temperatures sustained for a long time," said Hassan Ahmed, the report's author. "That's what really hurt the germination and the crop development."

The saying in Morocco is that the make or break limit for the rains to come in time for the harvest is March. This year, the rain didn't start falling until the final days of the month, long after the damage had been done.

"The latest rains might help the vegetables, but for the wheat it's too late," said Mohammed Boujellaba, a small farmer along the coast, as a light rain pattered down on to his fields of stunted, calf-high wheat, south of the capital.

"The wheat is now just between 20 and 30 centimeters (a foot) high, it's abnormal," he said. "In years where there is plentiful rain, it can reach up to a meter (yard) or more."

Bread is the country's main source of calories and Moroccans are among the highest per capita consumers of wheat in the world, eating 570 pounds (258 kilograms) a year, according to the U.S. embassy report. With an annual demand of at least 7 million tons, the country now faces a massive import bill.

In the debate to pass a budget, Finance Minister Nizar Barakat on Tuesday dismissed the effects of the drought, saying Morocco's economy had sufficiently diversified into other sectors.

Except that the non-agricultural parts of the economy are ailing as well. Tourism, which makes up at least 10 percent of GDP, was down across the board in 2011 amid the financial crisis in Europe.

The number of hotel nights spent by visitors in Marrakech, the country's main tourist draw, dropped 9 percent, while in the resort city of Agadir they went down 7 percent, according to Tourism Ministry figures.

The biggest drops were nights spent by French and Spanish visitors, 16 and 25 percent, respectively, which make up the bulk of Morocco's tourists.

These pale compared to the catastrophic drops experienced by Egypt and Tunisia in the wake of the Arab Spring, but come at a bad time for Morocco. The figures help explain the rage of tour operators when the new Islamist justice minister made a recent dig at non-pious visitors.

Speaking at a Quranic school in Marrakech, Mustapha Ramid complimented the sheikh for his work in a city that "people come from all over the world to spend time sinning in and being far from God," he was quoted as saying in the press.

"It is economic suicide in a time crisis," stated an angry editorial in the French-language daily *Le Matin* on Thursday. "We are shooting ourselves in the foot when we attack tourists—it's irresponsible and dangerous."

Exports to Europe and remittances from Morrocans working abroad have also been hurt by the crisis there.

The new budget projects a deficit of 5 percent of GDP, which will have to be covered with further borrowing.

While international ratings agencies have given Morocco a stable outlook, the country's BBB- rating is just above the speculative level and more debt could prompt a lower —making international borrowing onerous.

"Morocco's rating could be downgraded if the current increase in public deficits was not addressed and caused a further substantial increase in public debt ratio," noted Moody's Investor Service in a March statement.

AP

Unemployed university graduates demonstrate Wednesday April 11, 2012 in front of Morocco's parliament demanding government jobs amid a heavy police presence.

Hybrid and electric cars see record sales in March

DETROIT (AP)—Americans are buying record numbers of hybrid and electric cars as gas prices climb and new models arrive in showrooms, giving the vehicles their greatest share yet of the U.S. auto market.

Consumers bought a record 52,000 gas-electric hybrids and all-electric cars in March, up from 34,000 during the same month last year.

The two categories combined made up 3.64 percent of total U.S. sales, their highest monthly market share ever, according to Ward's AutoInfoBank. The previous high was 3.56 percent in July 2009, when the Cash for Clunkers program encouraged people to trade in old gas guzzlers for more fuel-efficient cars.

And while their share of the market remains small, it's a big leap from the start of the year, when hybrids and electrics made up 2.38 percent of new car sales.

Buyers were drawn by new models like the Toyota Prius C subcompact, the Prius V wagon and Camry hybrid. Gas prices near or above $4 per gallon added to the cars' attraction.

David Martin, a Denver software engineer, estimates he'll save at least $150 per month on gas with his new Chevrolet Volt compared with the 2010 Acura TSX he replaced. Martin expects gas prices to stay high, a factor that heavily influenced his purchase.

"As the cost of gasoline rises, my future savings can only increase," he said.

Stronger sales of the Volt and the Nissan Leaf were a positive sign for electric car makers. The two vehicles have struggled to gain acceptance from buyers worried about how far they can drive on a battery charge.

Another concern: Volt maker General Motors Co. had to change the car's charging system because its batteries caught fire after government crash tests.

GM sold just 7,671 Volts last year, below its goal of 10,000. But in March, it set a new monthly record of 2,289 for the Volt, an electric car with a small backup gas engine. Sales of the all-electric Leaf nearly doubled to 579.

The Volt got a boost from California's decision to make it eligible for high-occupancy vehicle lanes. Starting March 1, buyers with a low-emissions Volt could use the HOV lane and get a $1,500 state tax credit on top of a $7,500 federal tax credit. GM said a quarter of the Volts it sold last month were sold in California.

Edward Ang, of Cupertino, Calif., has been planning to buy a Volt since GM first announced it would make the car, but he waited until it qualified for the HOV sticker. He bought a Volt last month and now makes his 10-mile commute without using any gas. He used to drive a 2004 Prius.

"I made a promise to myself that if they bring it to market, I will get one," said Ang, an engineering manager.

Gas prices helped sales. The nationwide average for a gallon of gas jumped 19 cents in March, from $3.73 to $3.92, and it crossed the $4 mark in California even earlier. The $4 mark was a significant psychological milestone for some buyers, said Paul Lacy, who forecasts sales trends for consulting firm IHS Automotive.

Lacy expects hybrids and electrics to make up about 4 percent of U.S. sales this year, although sales could drop if gas prices fall or if buyers get more accustomed to higher prices. Hybrid and electric sales also rose with high pump prices last spring, but fell after prices moderated and the Japanese earthquake disrupted Prius supplies.

Best Buy announces locations for store closings

RICHFIELD, Minn. (AP)—Best Buy on Saturday announced the locations of 50 stores that it is closing this year, including seven in California, six in Illinois and six in the company's home state of Minnesota.

The struggling electronics chain said last month that it would close some of its so-called big box stores, cut 400 corporate jobs and trim $800 million in costs. Best Buy plans to open 100 smaller, more profitable Best Buy Mobile stores.

The company is trying to avoid the fate of Circuit City, which went out of business in 2009. It faces slower sales of expensive items like TVs, plus increased competition from Amazon.com and discount stores like Target.

Best Buy has about 1,400 locations in the United States. It has already closed two stores this year, one in Missouri and one in Arizona. Most of the rest of the 50 will close May 12, others this summer.

Best Buy said it would try to find other jobs in the company for the workers.

On Tuesday, Best Buy said CEO Brian Dunn had resigned after the board of directors began investigating his "personal conduct." The company lost $1.7 billion in the most recent quarter, partly because of restructuring costs.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Obama says US can't afford tax cuts for richest

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama says the nation can't afford to keep giving tax cuts to the wealthiest, "who don't need them and didn't even ask for them." Obama is using his weekly radio and Internet address to urge Americans to ask their member of Congress to support the "Buffett Rule," which is named after billionaire investor Warren Buffett, who says he pays a lower tax rate than his secretary. The plan would require that people earning at least $1 million annually, whether in salary or from investments, pay at least 30 percent of their incomes in taxes. The Senate is expected to consider the proposal on Monday. In the Republican address, Rep. Fred Upton of Michigan says the administration's policies are making gasoline prices worse. He says energy legislation pushed by the House is being blocked by Senate Democrats.

Twinkies maker Hostess gives unions 'final' offer

DALLAS (AP)—The company that makes Twinkies, Wonder bread and Ding Dongs says it's making a final offer to workers to accept cost-cutting before it asks a bankruptcy court to impose the cuts. Hostess Brands Inc. wants the Teamsters and bakers' unions to accept reduced pension benefits and changes in work rules to lower costs. It wants to outsource some delivery work. The company said Saturday that if the unions reject the offer, it will push ahead with efforts in bankruptcy court to throw out the unions' collective bargaining agreements. A union official warned that could lead to a strike.

Nation

Obama defends typically GOP states in race to 270

By THOMAS BEAUMONT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Barack Obama begins his re-election campaign defending traditionally Republican territory that he carried when he won the White House four years ago. Republican Mitt Romney is looking to reclaim any combination of these GOP strongholds now in flux.

In the months leading to the Nov. 6 election, both men will talk about how they will galvanize the nation. But in reality, they will lavish travel, advertising and staff on only a dozen states, and even fewer as the vote nears.

The political spotlight will shine brightly again on Florida, and the Upper Midwest, especially Ohio. But changes in the nation's demographics will mean heavy attention paid to the Mid-Atlantic and Southwest.

"For a long time the map was static. I don't think that holds true anymore," said Tad Devine, a senior adviser to former Democratic presidential nominees Al Gore and John Kerry. "Places like North Carolina and Virginia are changing, and they are getting a fresh look."

Despite the candidates' effort to make the election a national referendum, local trends and factors may decide whether campaigns go all-out in a state or bail to channel resources elsewhere.

It's a chess game aimed at reaching the 270 electoral votes needed to win.

OBAMA FLIPS

If the election were held now, Obama would safely carry 14 states, mainly the East and West Coasts, and the District of Columbia, with a total of 186 electoral votes. Romney, a former Massachusetts governor, probably would prevail in 20 states, primarily in the South and West, worth 156.

Both campaigns agree the election will turn on the 16 remaining states, and probably in those won by Obama in 2008 against Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.

Obama expanded the Democratic footprint on an electoral map that had changed little between George W. Bush's narrow 2000 election and 2004 re-election. Against McCain, Obama captured nine states that Bush had won four years earlier.

Besides Florida and Ohio, Obama took North Carolina and Virginia, where a Democrat had not won in a generation. There were victories as well in Colorado, Indiana, Iowa, New Mexico and Nevada.

In Florida, unemployment tops 9 percent, tourism is slow to recover, gas prices are high and trouble persists in the housing market; all that works against Obama.

But his team is aggressively organizing in the state, and his visit Friday was his 16th since taking office, more than almost any other swing state.

Romney's battle with Rick Santorum for the GOP nomination slowed his preparations for the fall showdown in Florida. If Romney were to win the state's 29 electoral votes, it would block Obama's clearest path to 270, said Rick Wiley, political director for the Republican National Committee.

"Deny him Florida and his map alters significantly," Wiley said.

AP

President Barack Obama participates in a three-way conversation with Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff and Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos, not pictured, at the CEO Summit of the Americas, in Cartagena, Colombia, Saturday April 14, 2012.

Ohio, too, is a jump-ball. In 2010, Republicans roared back. The manufacturing economy, especially its automotive parts sector in northern Ohio, continues to struggle, although unemployment has dropped below the national average.

"In Ohio, you're looking at the general election as a referendum on the economy," senior Romney adviser Kevin Madden said.

Yet Romney must contend in Ohio with the fallout from a party feud and an Obama campaign that never quit organizing after winning the state in 2008.

Republicans see North Carolina and Virginia as Romney's best chance to pick up an Obama-carried state.

Unemployment has remained at nearly 10 percent. Virginia Republicans have been emboldened by Gov. Bob McDonnell, who in 2010 ended consecutive Democratic administrations. But the states' conservative complexion has changed.

Younger, Democratic-leaning professionals have flocked to North Carolina's Research Triangle and the northern Virginia suburbs around the nation's capital. Both states also have large minority populations; those groups voted in record numbers for Obama in 2008.

Obama picked Charlotte, N.C., for the Democratic National Convention in September. While convention hosts have been unreliable general election indicators, Obama was the first Democrat to carry Colorado since 1992 after accepting the nomination in Denver. Obama kept thousands of the volunteers he sent out for that convention to work through the election, as he could in North Carolina.

Though defending inroads into Republican states, Obama has an advantage of forcing Romney to spend money there, and that, Obama aides say, shows some of the options of reaching 270.

"We have an ability to win in a number of different scenarios," said Obama's campaign manager, Jim Messina. "The map has moved. This is not your parents' electoral map."

Hispanic voters helped Obama win last time in Colorado, Nevada and New Mexico, and, according to polls, they prefer him over Romney. Romney described GOP primary rivals Rick Perry and Newt Gingrich as soft on illegal immigration, and has said he would veto legislation that would allow certain illegal residents to become U.S. citizens.

But Romney expects to be competitive in all three states. For one, Nevada has a popular Republican governor, Brian Sandoval, who endorsed Romney on Wednesday. Also, unemployment tops 12 percent in Nevada, the heart of the housing crisis.

The Obama campaign is confident it will carry Colorado, where suburban women, a strong suit nationally for the president, in the Denver area are seen as key.

New Mexico has gone back and forth for the past three presidential cycles, and elected a Republican governor in 2010. But the boom in the Hispanic voting population is a challenge for Romney.

"Those Western states are going to depend on the Hispanic turnout and the percentage we get," said Charlie Black, a veteran Republican presidential consultant. "And if we voted today, we wouldn't do well. But we've got plenty of time to work on it."

Iowa, a true swing state over the past three presidential elections, is special to Obama. His upset of Hillary Rodham Clinton in the 2008 caucuses set him on the path to the nomination, and he has kept the fires burning.

Romney waged competitive campaigns for the 2008 and 2012 caucuses, but has struggled to win devotion from conservatives. On Tuesday, he received the endorsement of Gov. Terry Branstad, an economic conservative and establishment GOP figure.

Vice President Joe Biden has campaigned in Iowa twice this year. The Obama campaign included Iowa, along with Colorado, Florida, Nevada, Ohio and Virginia, last week a round of television advertising, highlighting its place as a top target.

Of the GOP states Obama picked off, only Indiana is viewed as uncompetitive in 2012. Obama was the first Democrat to carry Indiana since 1964, and he did so by a single percentage point.

But Obama did win New Hampshire, which flipped from Bush to Kerry in 2004, and is considered a toss-up this year. It's Romney's backyard, where he won the January GOP primary and Republicans have roared back to power in recent years. Biden campaigning in the state Thursday.

DEMOCRATIC LEANERS

Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania are viewed as competitive, but lean toward Obama's column. Democratic presidential candidates have carried them since at least the 1980s, and earlier.

Romney hopes his native Michigan status and family name—his father was governor in the 1960s—help, as does his business background, given that the state's jobless rate exceeds the national average. But his opposition to the federal auto industry bailout in 2008 may hurt him in the car capital.

Although Romney's national campaign headquarters is in Boston, Republicans say they don't expect Romney to win, and perhaps not compete, in Massachusetts, a traditional Democratic stronghold.

In Wisconsin, conservatives are rallying around Gov. Scott Walker, who faces a June recall election after he signed legislation last year stripping public employee unions of most bargaining power. If Walker prevails, it could embolden Romney.

Bush competed in Minnesota and Pennsylvania in 2000 and 2004, only to have them tip Democrat in the closing weeks. Today, registered Democrats in Pennsylvania outnumber Republicans by nearly 1 million. But a downturn in the economy, or Romney catching fire elsewhere in the nation's economic heartland could tip both Republican.

REPUBLICAN LEANERS

Obama campaign aides have sent signals they will contest Arizona, arguing the Hispanic voter trend favors them. However, they and Romney aides say that tipping point is years away and that it remains a safe Republican state.

Likewise, Missouri has been decided by slim margins in the past three elections, but carried by Republicans in all three.

As in Arizona and even Georgia, where Obama's team has also made overtures, Missouri is considered GOP territory this year.

ACROSS THE NATION

2 dead in apparent murder-suicide at San Jose mall

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—Two people are dead after an apparent murder-suicide at a busy San Jose strip mall, police said Saturday. Officers called out to the shopping center on the 1000 block of East Capitol Expressway around 9:30 a.m. Saturday found a man and a woman on the ground, each with at least one gunshot wound, said San Jose police spokesman Officer Jose Garcia. Both were pronounced dead at the scene. Their names have not been released. Police have not determined the relationship between the two. Officers also found a toddler seated in a child safety seat inside a parked car that police believe belongs to one of the adults, Garcia said. The toddler, a 17-month-old girl, was unharmed. She was placed in the care of Santa Clara County Child Protective Services. No additional details have been released, but police have cordoned off a portion of the center's parking lot while detectives interview witnesses.

Severe weather bears down on Midwest, Plains

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—Tornadoes were spotted across the Midwest and Plains on Saturday as an outbreak of unusually strong weather seized the region, and forecasters sternly warned that "life-threatening" weather could intensify overnight. Storms were reported in Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska and Oklahoma. Emergency officials in Iowa said a large part of the town of Thurman in the western part of the state was destroyed but no one was injured. A hospital in Creston, southwest of Des Moines, was damaged but patients and staff were not hurt. And a reported tornado in Wichita, Kan., caused widespread power outages and other damage, including to housing and at an Air Force Base.

NRA official: Media sensationalizing Martin case

ST. LOUIS (AP)—A top National Rifle Association official levied sharp criticism against the national media on Saturday, accusing it of sensationalizing the Trayvon Martin case and ignoring other crimes that happen across the country every day. NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre didn't mention the Martin case by name during his speech at the group's annual meeting in St. Louis, but he accused the media of "sensational reporting from Florida." The 17-year-old Martin was unarmed when he was fatally shot Feb. 26 in Sanford, Fla., by neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman, who claimed self-defense. Police initially didn't charge Zimmerman, prompting nationwide protests. Zimmerman was charged with second-degree murder last week.

Asia

NKorea shows off new missile at military parade

AP

A North Korean vehicle carrying a missile passes by during a mass military parade in Pyongyang's Kim Il Sung Square to celebrate 100 years since the birth of the late North Korean founder Kim Il Sung on Sunday, April 15, 2012.

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—North Korea on Sunday unveiled what appeared to be a new missile at a military parade in Pyongyang.

The missile, displayed during celebrations for the centennial of the birth of late North Korea founder Kim Il Sung, appears to add to an arsenal that has raised international worries heightened by the country's simultaneous development of nuclear weapons.

The celebrations come two days after North Korea fired a rocket widely viewed abroad as a provocative test of missile technology. The rocket failed about a minute after liftoff.

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BEIJING (AP)—China is appealing to the United States and South Korea to show restraint following North Korea's failed rocket launch.

China's foreign ministry said Sunday that Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi talked with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and South Korean Foreign Minister Kim Sung-hwan. A ministry statement appealed for all sides to "remain calm and exercise restraint."

The failed launch Friday heightened tensions in the region, and the U.N. Security Council criticized it as a violation of resolutions that prohibit North Korea from developing nuclear and missile programs. The United States suspended food aid to the impoverished North.

■ ■ ■

Military analysts in Japan and South Korea said the missile on display Sunday appeared to be something newer—and possibly bigger—than what had previously been displayed.

But they said further examination would be required to tell whether it was an intercontinental ballistic missile, or ICBM, that North Korea has reportedly had in the works for quite some time.

A number of North Koreans at the parade said it was the first time they had seen the new missile. The exact design could not immediately be confirmed by military officials.

"It looked like more than a mock-up, and like it could be intended as an ICBM, but it is very hard to tell at this point," said Isaku Okabe, a private Japanese military specialist.

Sohn Young-hwan, a South Korean rocket scientist who heads the privately funded Institute of Technology and Management Analysis in Seoul, said the missile was possibly an intermediate-range ballistic missile, but not an ICBM.

Analysts have speculated for months that North Korea is working on a rocket that is bigger and stronger than the Unha-3 that failed Friday.

The new missile it is supposedly working on is rumored to have bigger boosters that give it a maximum range of more than 10,000 kilometers (6,200 miles). That would theoretically make it capable of reaching the continental U.S., though as Friday's failure demonstrated, North Korea has a long way to go before it can mount an effective ICBM attack.

Nick Hansen, of the Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford University, wrote on the website 38 North that satellite imagery and photos taken by journalists allowed to visit North Korea's new launch site back up the claim that the North has a bigger missile in mind because the gantry used on Friday is much bigger than it needed to be for the Unha-3 rocket.

North Korea has used military parades to reveal its missiles before.

A parade in 2010 provided the world with its first look at a road-mobile ballistic missile with a range estimated at 3,000-4,000 kilometers (1,860-2,485 miles). Such missiles are of particular concern because they are harder to locate and destroy than missiles that are launched from fixed locations, like the one Friday.

The 4,000-kilometer range would put U.S. bases in Guam, South Korea and Japan within its sights.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Grenade at cockfight arena kills 3 in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A grenade explosion inside a cockfighting arena in the restive southern Philippines has killed three spectators and wounded 33 others. Police say a man tossed the grenade in the crowded arena during a town fiesta Saturday. Muslim rebels and criminal syndicates are active in the area, but regional military commander Col. Leopoldo Galon says the explosion is believed to have been triggered by a personal feud. The blast occurred in North Cotabato province, where extortion was blamed for a bus attack that killed two people earlier in the week.

Pakistan yet to find 139 buried in avalanche

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A Pakistan commander says there is no sign of life from the more than 100 people buried when a massive avalanche hit a military complex close to the Indian border more than a week ago. Maj. Gen. Ashfaq Nadeem said Saturday that more than 400 soldiers with help from heavy machinery and foreign experts are working to find 128 soldiers and 11 civilians that were swept up in the April 4 avalanche. But so far they have not found anyone alive or any bodies of the dead. The troops and civilians were buried under some 25 meters (80 feet) of snow in the Siachen Glacier. It is located on the northern tip of Kashmir, a Himalayan region which is divided between Pakistan and India. More soldiers have died there from the weather than combat on the glacier.

Taliban attack Pakistan prison, free 380 prisoners

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP)—Taliban militants battled their way into a prison in northwest Pakistan on Sunday, freeing close to 400 prisoners, including at least 20 described by police as "very dangerous" insurgents, authorities and the militants said. The raid by more than 100 fighters was a dramatic display of the strength of the insurgency gripping the nuclear-armed country. The escaped prisoners may now rejoin the fight, giving momentum and a propaganda boost to a movement that has killed thousands of Pakistani officials and ordinary citizens since 2007.

Flooding in 2 Chinese coal mines kills at least 15

BEIJING (AP)—Flooding in two Chinese coal mines has killed at least 15 miners. State television and the official Xinhua News Agency say at least 10 miners were killed in a mine in the northern province of Shanxi. The fate of one missing miner was unknown following the flood Friday morning. Sunday's reports said at least five miners were killed in an unrelated underground flood in a mine Saturday in the central province of Henan. Xinhua said an unknown number of other miners might be missing.

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The raid by more than 100 fighters was a dramatic display of the strength of the insurgency gripping the nuclear-armed country. The escaped prisoners may now rejoin the fight, giving momentum and a propaganda boost to a movement that has killed thousands of Pakistani officials and ordinary citizens since 2007.

The attackers, armed with automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades, stormed the prison before dawn in the city of Bannu close to the Afghan border, said police officer Shafique Khan. They used explosives and hand grenades to knock down the main gates and two walls, said Bannu prison superintendent Zahid Khan.

"They were carrying modern and heavy weapons," said Zahid Khan. "They fired rockets."

Once inside the building, the attackers headed straight to the area of the prison where death-row prisoners were being kept, he said. They fought with guards for around two hours, setting part of the prison on fire before freeing the 380 inmates, including at least 20 "very dangerous Taliban militants," said Shafique.

One escaped prisoner, Adnan Rashid, was on death row for his involvement in an assassination attempt against former Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf, said Zahid Khan.

The prison in Bannu housed 944 inmates.

A Taliban spokesman, Asimullah Mehsud, claimed the movement's fighters freed 1,200 of their comrades. The group is known to make exaggerated claims.

Pakistan's military has launched a series of operations against the Pakistani Taliban group in the northwest, where it is strongest and has forged alliances with al-Qaida and other transnational militant movements based there along the Afghan border.

The movement is closely linked to the Afghan Taliban, which is battling U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan.

Soldiers and police have killed or arrested hundreds of militants, but the insurgency has proved resilient. Insurgents have carried out suicide bombings and other attacks across the country in retaliation, raising doubts in some quarters over whether the county can survive. Prison breakouts like the one Sunday have been rare.

Bannu city is the main gateway to North Waziristan, the most militant-infested region along the border.

World

Officials: Human remains at Titanic shipwreck site

NEW YORK (AP)—Human remains may be embedded in the mud of the North Atlantic where the New York-bound Titanic came to rest when it sank 100 years ago, a federal official said Saturday.

A 2004 photograph, released to the public for the first time this week in an uncropped version to coincide with the disaster's centenary, shows a coat and boots in the mud at the legendary shipwreck site.

"These are not shoes that fell out neatly from somebody's bag right next to each other," James Delgado, the director of maritime heritage at the National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration, told The Associated Press in a phone interview.

The way they are "laid out" makes a "compelling case" that it is where "someone has come to rest," he said.

The image, along with two others showing pairs of boots resting next to each other, were taken during an expedition led by NOAA and famed Titanic finder Robert Ballard in 2004. They were published in Ballard's book on the expedition. Delgado said the one showing a coat and boots was cropped to show only a boot.

The New York Times first reported about the photographs in Saturday editions.

Filmmaker James Cameron, who has visited the wreck 33 times, told the newspaper that he had seen "zero human remains" during his extensive explorations of the Titanic. "We've seen shoes. We've seen pairs of shoes, which would strongly suggest there was a body there at one point. But we've never seen any human remains."

For Delgado, who was the chief scientist on an expedition in 2010 that mapped the entire site, the difference in opinion is "one of semantics."

"I as an archaeologist would say those are human remains," he said, referring to the photograph of the coat and boots specifically. "Buried in that sediment are very likely forensic remains of that person."

He said in an email that the images "speak to the power of that tragic and powerful scene 2 1/2 miles below" and "to its resilience as an undersea museum, as well as its fragility."

"This is an appropriate time to note the human cost of that event, and the fact that in this special place at the bottom of the sea, evidence of the human cost, in the form of the shattered wreck, the scattered luggage, fittings and other artifacts, and the faint but unmistakable evidence that this is where people came to rest, is present," he said.

He said the images are also evidence that society could do a better job protecting the site.

There has been a long fight to protect the Titanic since it was rediscovered by Ballard in 1985, beginning with a federal law passed by Congress aimed at creating an international agreement to transform the shipwreck into an international maritime memorial. Sen. John Kerry introduced what some observers see as stronger legislation April 1 aimed at protecting the site from "salvage and intrusive research."

But the luxury liner, which went down April 14, 1912, after striking an iceberg, sits in international waters, limiting what the U.S. government can do.

Delgado said an international treaty would need to be negotiated between Britain, Canada, France and the U.S.

AP

This photo provided by the Institute for Exploration, Center for Archaeological Oceanography/University of Rhode Island/NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration, shows The remains of a coat and boots, articulated in the mud on the sea bed near Titanic's stern, are suggestive evidence of where a victim of the disaster came to rest.

Egypt bars 3 front-runners from presidential race

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's election commission disqualified 10 presidential hopefuls, including Hosni Mubarak's former spy chief and fundamentalist Islamists, from running Saturday in a surprise decision that left a field of moderates in the race for the country's first post-revolutionary leader.

The elimination of the three most powerful and controversial candidates could go in two directions with just weeks to go before the vote, observers said. It could plunge the Arab world's most populous nation into a new political crisis, or just the opposite, defuse it.

Farouk Sultan, the head of the Supreme Presidential Election Commission that was appointed by Egypt's military rulers to oversee the vote, said that those barred from the contest included Mubarak-era strongman Omar Suleiman, Muslim Brotherhood chief strategist Khairat el-Shater and hard-line Islamist Hazem Abu Ismail. He did not give reasons.

Disqualified candidates have 48 hours to appeal the decision, according to election rules. The final list of candidates will be announced on April 26.

The announcement came as a shock to many Egyptians as three of the 10 excluded were considered among the front-runners in a highly polarized campaign that has left the nation divided behind two strong camps: Islamists and former regime insiders who are allegedly supported by the ruling generals.

Thirteen others had their candidacy approved, including former Arab League chief Amr Moussa, moderate Islamist Abdel-Moneim Abolfotoh and former prime minister and Mubarak-era minister Ahmed Shafiq, according to Sultan.

If upheld, the decision would reshape the electoral landscape by removing the most powerful and controversial candidates and leaving moderates such as Abolfotoh, an ex-Muslim Brotherhood leader who has been trying to project cross-over appeal for both religious conservatives and liberals, and Moussa, who was a member of the old regime but is popular among middle class Egyptians and who is not so closely associated with it.

The presidential election is due on May 23-24, with a possible runoff on June 16-17. The winner will be announced on June 21, less than two weeks before the July 1 deadline promised by the military rulers who took over after Mubarak to hand over power.

Abu Ismail, a lawyer-turned-preacher whose eligibility had come under scrutiny in recent weeks over the question of whether his late mother had dual Egyptian-U.S. citizenship, accused the military rulers who assumed power after Mubarak's ouster of trying to manipulate the race from behind the scenes and warned his followers would not stay silent.

"You will drown, God willing, because you are in showdown with the people, because you are playing with fire," he said in an interview with the Islamist TV network Al-Hakma.

Israeli police on alert for fly-in

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel deployed hundreds of police Sunday at its main airport to detain activists flying in to protest the country's occupation of Palestinian areas, defying vigorous Israeli government efforts to block their arrival.

Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said hundreds of protesters were expected to land at Ben-Gurion International Airport in the course of the day. The police contingent at the airport was reinforced to deal with possible unrest or disruptions there, he said.

By early Sunday, no one had been detained, Rosenfeld said. Immigration authorities have said activists who did arrive would be deported.

Israel is jittery about the prospect of large numbers of protesters arriving because of deadly confrontations with pro-Palestinian activists in the past, notably a naval raid on a Gaza-bound flotilla in May 2010.

The fly-in's effect has been diluted by airlines that canceled the reservations of at least 100 known activists under pressure from Israel.

A spokeswoman for Israel's Interior Ministry, Sabine Haddad, said Israel had sent a list of suspected activists to international airlines, asking the carriers to block them from boarding Israel-bound flights. It warned the airlines they would have to cover the cost of the activists' return flights, and threatened unspecified sanctions on airlines if they did not comply, she said.

Campaign organizer Amira Musallam said she still expected hundreds of pro-Palestinian protesters from around the world to come.

Last July, Israel blocked a similar fly-in effort by preventing dozens from boarding Tel Aviv-bound flights in Europe and denying entry to 69.

The protest is meant to draw attention to how Israel controls access into Palestinian areas.

Visitors can only reach the West Bank through Israeli-controlled land crossings or Israeli airports, though at any given time, hundreds of foreigners, including activists, are in the territory, which Israel captured in 1967.

Travelers headed for Palestinian-controlled areas of the West Bank often report being detained and questioned, sometimes for hours, by Israeli border authorities.

Israel limits access to the border crossing to the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip to foreign journalists, diplomats and aid workers.

Secret Service scandal deepens; 11 placed on leave

CARTAGENA, Colombia (AP)—An embarrassing scandal involving prostitutes and Secret Service agents deepened Saturday as 11 agents were placed on leave, and the agency designed to protect President Barack Obama had to offer regret for the mess overshadowing his diplomatic mission to Latin America.

The controversy also expanded to the U.S. military, which announced five service members staying at the same hotel as the agents in Colombia may have been involved in misconduct as well. They were confined to their quarters in Colombia and ordered not to have contact with others.

All the alleged activities took place before Obama arrived Friday in this Colombian port city for meetings with 33 other regional leaders.

Put together, the allegations were an embarrassment for an American president on foreign soil and threatened to upend White House efforts to keep his trip focused squarely on boosting economic ties with fast-growing Latin America. Obama was holding two days of meetings at the Summit of the Americas with leaders from across the vast region before heading back to Washington Sunday night.

The Secret Service did not disclose the nature of the misconduct. The Associated Press confirmed on Friday that it involved prostitutes.

The White House said Obama had been briefed about the incidents but would not comment on his reaction.

"The president does have full confidence in the United States Secret Service," presidential spokesman Jay Carney said when asked.

Carney insisted the matter was more a distraction for the media than Obama. But Secret Service assistant director Paul Morrissey said in a statement: "We regret any distraction from the Summit of the Americas this situation has caused."

Rep. Peter King, chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, told the AP after he was briefed on the investigation on Saturday that "close to" all 11 of the agents involved had brought women back to their rooms at a hotel separate from where Obama is now staying.

The New York Republican said the women were "presumed to be prostitutes" but investigators were interviewing the agents.

The lawmaker also offered new details about the controversy.

King said he was told that anyone visiting the hotel overnight was required to leave identification at the front desk and leave the hotel by 7 a.m. When a woman failed to do so, it raised questions among hotel staff and police, who investigated. They found the woman with the agent in the hotel room and a dispute arose over whether the agent should have paid her.

King said he was told that the agent did eventually pay the woman.

The incident was reported to the U.S. embassy, prompting further investigation, King said

The 11 employees in question were special agents and Uniformed Division Officers. None were assigned to directly protect Obama. All were sent home and replaced, Morrissey said, given "the nature of the allegations" and a zero tolerance policy on personal misconduct.

The Secret Service says the incidents have had no bearing on its ability to provide security for Obama's stay in Colombia.

Another jolt came Saturday when the U.S. Southern Command said five service members assigned to support the Secret Service violated their curfew and may have been involved in inappropriate conduct. Carney said it was part of the same incident involving the Secret Service.

Health & Fitness

$100 or $1,000? Wide price range for birth control

WASHINGTON (AP)—Birth control that you must take every single day? A more goof-proof option that costs a lot upfront but then works for several years? Or something in between?

A woman's choice may come down to her wallet: The price of birth control varies dramatically.

Just the pill has a huge range, from $9 a month for generics to $90 a month for some of the newest brands, plus a yearly doctor's visit for the prescription.

Want a once-a-month option? The patch or ring could run you $55 monthly.

Even more reliable are so-called long-acting types, those IUDs or implants that can last years but can cost $600 to nearly $1,000 for the doctor to insert.

That's if you don't have insurance that covers at least some of the tab—although many women do. And if those prices are too much, crowded public clinics offer free or reduced-price options. But it might take a while to get an appointment.

Questions about cost and access to birth control have been swirling for weeks now, intensifying after a Georgetown University law school student testified before congressional Democrats in support of a new federal policy to pay for contraception that she said can add up to $1,000 a year, not covered by the Jesuit college's health plan. Talk show host Rush Limbaugh's verbal assault on her comments became the latest skirmish in the birth control wars.

Soon, the new policy will make contraceptives available free of charge as preventive care, just like mammograms, for women with most employer-provided health insurance. Churches are exempt. But for other religious-affiliated organizations, such as colleges or hospitals, their insurance companies would have to pay for the coverage, something that has triggered bitter political debate.

A major study of nearly 10,000 women that's under way in St. Louis provides a tantalizing clue about what might happen when that policy takes effect.

Consider: Nearly half of the nation's 6 million-plus pregnancies each year are unintended. Rates of unplanned pregnancies are far higher among low-income women than their wealthier counterparts. Among the reasons is that condoms can fail. So can birth control pills, if the woman forgets to take them every day or can't afford a refill.

Only about 5 percent of U.S. women use the most effective contraceptives—a matchstick-sized implant named Implanon or intrauterine devices known as IUDs. Once inserted, they prevent pregnancy for three, five or 10 years. But Dr. Jeffrey Peipert of Washington University in St. Louis says many women turn them down because of a higher upfront cost that insurance hasn't always covered—even though years of pills can cost as much.

"How can we cover Viagra and not IUDs?" wonders Peipert, who is leading the new study.

Called the Contraceptive CHOICE Project, the study is providing those options and a range of others for free. Participants also can choose from birth control pills, a monthly patch, a monthly vaginal ring and a once-every-three-months shot. They're told the pros and cons of each but that the long-lasting options have a lower failure rate.

Graphic shows the annual cost of the most effect birth control methods.

About 75 percent of women in the ongoing study are choosing the IUD or the implant, Peipert says. After the first year, more than 80 percent of the women who chose the long-acting contraceptives are sticking with them ,compared with about half the pill users, he says.

According to the Guttmacher Institute, the average woman who has two children will spend parts of three decades trying to avoid an unintended pregnancy. The Institute of Medicine says that's one reason that women tend to incur higher out-of-pocket costs for preventive care than men.

Yes, there already are some options for more affordable contraception, such as public clinics or Planned Parenthood.

About 55 percent of local health departments offer some family planning services, according to the National Association of County & City Health Officials. Many of those receive federal Title X funding, which means they can offer contraception on a sliding fee scale. The poorest women may get it free, while others may pay full price or somewhere in between.

There are cheaper generic pills. Peipert says there's little difference between them and pricey new brand-name versions like Yaz.

But some women go through a number of brands before finding one that doesn't cause uncomfortable side effects, says Sarah Brown of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. Her organization operates a website, http:// www.bedsider.org , that details options along with the price range.

"Not every woman can use generic pills, by any means," Brown says. "Do we say to people, `Just go get generic cardiac medicines. Hope that works out for you?'"

Peipert notes that contraception is cheaper than what insurers or taxpayer-funded Medicaid pay for prenatal care and delivery. He says economic studies have found that every $1 spent on family planning can save nearly $4 in expenditures on unintended pregnancy.

Do women ask about the price?

"Oh, my gosh, absolutely," exclaims obstetrician-gynecologist Dr. Monica Dragoman of New York's Montefiore Medical Center.

Just last week, she saw a woman whose heart condition could make another pregnancy life-threatening but who couldn't afford the IUD that Dragoman wanted to prescribe, and chose a cheaper option.

If a family's struggling financially, "sometimes contraception is one of the first things to fall off," Dragoman says.

In Celebration of His New Life

EFRAIN CEPEDA TUDELA

"Efrain Robit"

Born on July 18, 1944, passed away in the grace of our Lord on April 9, 2012 at the age of 67.

In his new Life he now joins his:

Wife: Rita Sakisat Aldan Tudela
Father: Roberto Mendiola Tudela
Mother: Vicenta Ilano Cepeda Tudela

Brothers & Spouse: Florencio C. Tudela & Emerita K. Tudela; Daniel C. Tudela; Herman C. Tudela
Sister: Maria C. Tudela
Parents-in-Law: Heronimo Pangelinan & Candelaria Ogo Naputi Manibusan

He will be remembered by his:

†**Rita Sakisat Aldan Tudela: Children & Spouses**: Joseph A. & Doreen M. Tudela (Joseph Lance/Frannie, Desiree Briana/David (David Joseph); Margarita T. & Gerard B. Salas (Hiroki Gerard, Hiroyuki Gerardo, Hiroaki Gerad); and Lucrecia A. Tudela & Christino DLC. Cabrera (Ritaciah Chayanne, Champ Sage, Ky Christian, Tyce Efrain)

Wife: Antonia Naputi Manibusan Tudela

Children & Spouses: Magdalena T. & Francisco B. Camacho (Antoinette/Salvelo (Ruleiyna, Rianna, Palani), Francisco Jr.); Evelyn M. Takai/Ramon S. Salas (Caroline/Monte, Stephanie/Anthony (Tiffany), Nikita); Joseph M. & Vivian C. Takai (Michelle, Jovi, Britney); Michael M. & Maria M. Takai (Breyandel, Deltona); Patrick M. Takai/Bobbie R. Concepcion (Brittany, Christopher, Paethon, Patrick Jr.); Gloria T. & Michael K. Techur (Ashley, Kortney, Myles); Frankie M. Eliptico; Camron M. Tudela

Brothers/Spouses: †Florencio C. & †Emerita K. Tudela (†Florencio Jr., Thomas/Etsuko, Florentina/Peter, Joey/Esper, Henry/June, Norma/Otto, Cynthia, Elaine/Anthony, Erlynn/Alex, Carl, Loraine/Melvin, Vince); Jesus C. & Inocencia T. Tudela (Jesus Jr./Marianne, Vicente, Primitiva/John, Ramon/Juanette, Marcella/Lino, Delcina/Gil, Victoria/Joseph, Peter/Senia); Luis C. & Mary Jane Tudela; Juan C. & Margarita D. Tudela (John Jr./Jerma, Melcom/Vanessa, Adrian/Kimberly); †Herman C. & Magdalena H. Tudela (Francisco, Melvin/Claudia, Eric/Lillian, Herman, Owen, Caria, Herlena); Alejandro C. Tudela (Alexander Abel, Maricelle, Amanda)

Sisters/Spouses: Trinidad T. & Carlos L. Takai (Agavita/Joseph, Diana/James, Barbara Ann/Beniel, Joseph/Cynthia, Edwin/Kimberly, Martin/Jacqueline, Melinda, Alvin/Ann, Diego); Maria Magdalena T. & Jose C. Sablan Jr. (Joseph Robert, Elvy Mae)

†**Efrain** *is additionally survived by numerous great-grandchildren, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.*

Nightly mass and rosary is being said at 6:00 pm at San Vicente Catholic Church in San Vicente Village.

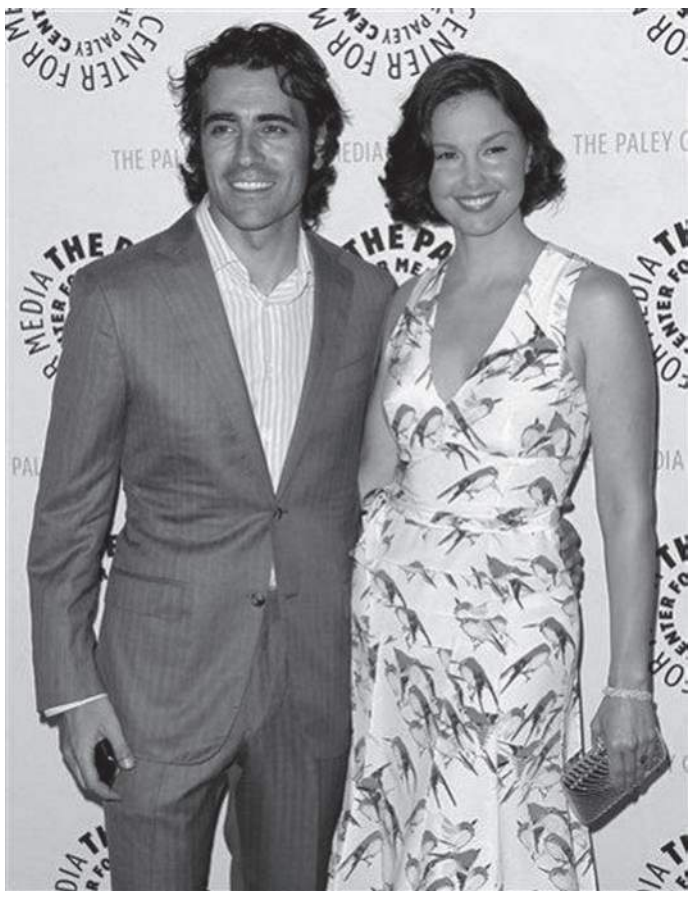
On Thursday, April 19, 2012, Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 am at the Mount Carmel Cathedral. Interment will follow at the Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, and Ghilisou.

The Family

Life & Style

Franchitti proud of Ashley Judd for speaking out



AP

Cast member Ashley Judd, right, and Dario Franchitti arrive at a preview screening for an upcoming episode of the ABC television series "Missing" in Beverly Hills, Calif., Tuesday, April 10, 2012.

LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP)—IndyCar champion Dario Franchitti applauded wife Ashley Judd on Friday for standing up to accusations she's had plastic surgery.

Franchitti said he was angered by media speculation that the actress had altered her face, and gave her the phone number of an attorney he's used in Scotland.

"I had read something about these comments on her face, and I got really (mad) and I said to her `This is outrageous. This has gone too far,'" he told The Associated Press. "But that's all I did. My reaction to it got her thinking, and then she did everything else. She's the one who had the courage to go out there and I am really proud of her for doing it."

Judd on Monday released an essay called "The Conversation" on The Daily Beast that decried the speculation about her appearance. She said the puffiness in her face was caused by steroids she was taking to treat a sinus infection.

"The conversation was pointedly nasty, gendered, and misogynistic and embodies what all girls and women in our culture, to a greater or lesser degree, endure every day," Judd wrote, stressing the issue is about "the assault on (women's) body image."

Franchitti, the four-time IndyCar champion, said the couple has been amazed at the reaction to Judd's piece. Since her essay was published, she's done numerous national television interviews discussing the issues women face, and has posted on Twitter some of the responses she's received. Many of them are blogs by women who have faced similar attacks about their appearance or body image.

"The reaction from people has been incredible," Franchitti said. "Her thing was it was not about her—the initial piece was about her, but it was to get it started, to get this conversation kick started. That's what she was trying to do, get this big discussion going.

"I am just really proud for having the courage to do it, because I think it would be easier to be status quo and have people write lies about you. Good for her for standing up."

Spain king hurt in Botswana elephant hunting trip

MADRID (AP)—Spain's King Juan Carlos has successfully undergone hip replacement surgery after tripping on stairs and fracturing bones around the joint while on an elephant hunting trip in Botswana, officials said Saturday. It was the monarch's fourth surgery in almost two years.

Botswana government spokesman Jeff Ramsay told The Associated Press that the 74-year-old was on a private visit up north in the Okavango area when he had the accident. "He was hunting for elephant. He has a permit," the spokesman said.

The fall occurred early Friday morning in the chalet where the head of state was staying, said Angel Villamor, spokesman for San Jose hospital in Madrid where the king had his operation.

Juan Carlos flew back and was driven straight to hospital after landing, a royal palace spokesman said. The palace also released a statement saying the king had sustained "a fracture in three fragments of the right hip, associated with osteoarthritis of that joint."

Spanish state broadcaster RTVE carried the news on its website accompanied by a photograph of the king, rifle in hand, standing next to a dead elephant while on a previous hunting trip with a Botswana-based safari company.

The latest incident drew criticism from some lawmakers at a time when Spain is on the verge of recession with close to 23 percent unemployment.

"It can't be said the head of state is losing sleep over the many thousands of young people who are unemployed," said Cayo Lara of the United Left party.

The surgery was the king's fourth since May 2010. Previously, a benign tumor has been removed from one of his lungs, in June last year he also underwent surgery on his right knee and then in September he had an operation to repair Achilles tendon damage.

This is not the first time the aging monarch's love of hunting has caused concern. In October 2006, a Russian governor launched an inquiry into reports that Juan Carlos had shot and killed a bear while on holiday near Moscow.

Vyacheslav Pozgalyov, governor of the Vologda region northeast of Moscow, had reportedly received a letter from the region's deputy hunting chief, Sergei Starostin, claiming a bear—named Mitrofan—had been fed honey mixed with vodka before being released near a site where the king was to hunt.

Starostin wrote that the local authorities had thus turned the king's hunting trip into a "disgusting fraud," Russia's top business daily Kommersant said.

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

We, the children and family of the late

†Francisco Santos DeLeon Guerrero

and

† Elizabeth Castro DeLeon Guerrero

Wish to extend our deepest and sincerest appreciation for all the kindness and words of comfort that you all have given us on the loss of our beloved father †Francisco. Your precious prayers, love, support and condolences have helped us during the most difficult times and have also given us the courage to accept that although our beloved father has gone from our lives and unto his final resting place joining our beloved mother †Elizabeth, they will always live among us in our hearts. Your presence and sacrifices meant the world to us.

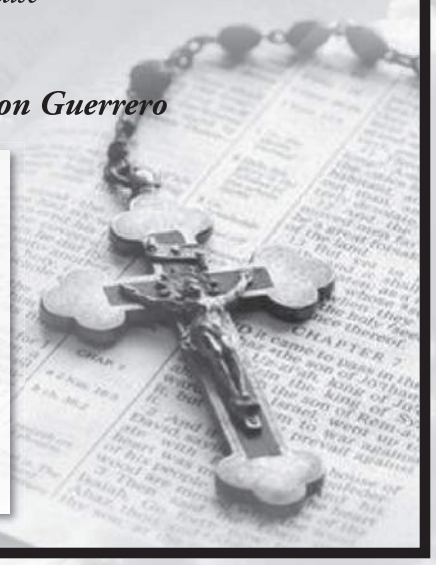
We are truly grateful to Fr. Issac Ayuyu for celebrating a beautiful Eucharistic Celebration and Fr. Rey Rozal, Fr. Celso Magbanua Jr, Fr. Jesse Reyes for assisting in the Mass of Christian Burial, and our Techa Acelia C. Dela Cruz. We thank the doctors and nurses who provided care and compassion to our beloved during his illness and comfort during his final days. Our appreciation to the Guam Cancer Center and Calvary Hills Funeral Home in Texas for the service and care bestowed to our beloved. With grateful hearts Si Yuus Maase to our family and friends here in Saipan who gave us unconditional love and extended their untiring support to us and the Saipan community in Houston for their care and support while we were in Texas with our beloved.

With All Our Love,
Thank You and Dangkulo Na Si Yuus Maase

Children and Families of the late
†Francisco Santos and †Elizabeth Castro DeLeon Guerrero

"At a time when our hearts are filled with pain and loss, it is through the love, care and support that you have shared with us that has given us the strength and courage in each passing day.

We thank our Heavenly Father for blessing us with a loving and caring mother whom we've lost four months ago and a truly devoted and faithful father who forever gave us unconditional love. As both of our parents have gone to join their Creator in their new life in God's grace, may their spirits and memories forever live in our hearts."



Guns N' Roses jams way into Rock Hall

AP

Guns N' Roses' Duff McKagan, left, Matt Sorum, top left, Steven Adler, top right, and Slash, right, perform with guest vocalist Myles Kennedy after induction onto the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Sunday, April 15, 2012, in Cleveland.

CLEVELAND (AP)—On their way into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Guns N' Roses got together for one more gig.

Axl Rose missed it.

The hedonistic hard rockers, who became the world's top music act amid endless dysfunction, members of Guns N' Roses reunited for three songs on Saturday night before 6,000 fans, many of whom were thrilled to see at least most of the band's original lineup jam on classic hits like "Sweet Child O' Mine" and "Paradise City."

Rose, the band's frontman and ringmaster of the G N' R traveling sex, drugs and rock and roll circus, declined to attend the induction, saying he didn't want to be part of the ceremony because it "doesn't appear to be somewhere I'm actually wanted or respected."

He was hardly missed.

While his decision disappointed some hardcore fans and ended any possibility of a full-scale reunion of the original lineup, guitarist Slash, bassist Duff McKagan and drummer Steve Adler performed for the first time in nearly 20 years to the delight of the sell-out crowd inside historic Public Hall.

Guns N' Roses were one of the headliners of this year's eclectic group of inductees, which included the Red Hot Chili Peppers, the Beastie Boys, folk icon Donovan, late singer-songwriter Laura Nyro and British bands the Small Faces and Faces.

The event lasted well into the early morning with an All-Star jam featuring some of rock's biggest names closing the 5 1-2 hour ceremony with a stirring rendition of Stevie Wonder's "Higher Ground."

Hours earlier, Chili Peppers lead singer Anthony Kiedis said it was strange to be enshrined while the band was touring.

"We're going somewhere," Kiedis said. "How can we stop and take an award when really we're just halfway there? But it is nice to be together with people that we spent some incredible years along the way writing songs and playing shows in little theaters and sweaty little transvestite clubs and having the time of our lives."

Cleveland rocked without Rose.

As he inducted Guns N' Roses, Green Day's Billie Joe Armstrong recalled the first time he saw the band on MTV.

"I thought, one these guys could end up dead or in jail," he said.

Guns N' Roses came out both barrels blaring and their debut album "Appetite For Destruction," shook a music world that at the time was consumed with pop ballads and dance music.

"It's the best debut album in the history of rock and roll," Armstrong said. "Every song hits hard. It takes you a trip to the seedy world of Los Angeles. The thing that set them apart from everyone else was guts. They never lost their edge for one second."

Armstrong talked about each of the Guns members, talking about Slash's mastery and Adler's pulsive, pounding beats before pausing.

"Let's see, who am I missing?"

The reference to Rose drew boos and catcalls that Armstrong tried to shout down.

"He's one of the best frontmen to ever touch a microphone," Armstrong said.

McKagan and Slash did not mention Rose during their brief remarks but then took the stage with Myles Kennedy, a member of a side project with Slash, signing lead vocals.

Like Guns N' Roses, the Red Hot Chili Peppers emerged from Los Angeles during the 1980s when Sunset Strip's rock scene was dominated by "hair" bands more concerned with their tight lycra pants and eyeliner than their sound. Not the Chili Peppers, who found their unique groove by blending punk, funk, rock and rap.

While their lineup has undergone some changes—founding guitarist Hillel Slovak died of a heroin overdose in 1988—Kiedis and bassist Flea have survived personal highs and lows and the band remains one of music's top live acts.

Kiedis said Slovak would have loved the honor.

"I think that he would have a good laugh," Kiedis said. "Yeah, it would certainly mean something to him as he cared deeply about music and the love of the brotherhood of being in a band and being a creative force in the universe, which he is and always will be a brother in everything we do."

Comedian Chris Rock, a longtime fan and friend of the band, inducted the Chili Peppers.

"If (Beach Boy) Brian Wilson (funkmaster) George Clinton had a kid he would be ugly," Rock said. "But he would sound like the Red Hot Chili Peppers."

The Chili Peppers took the stage at 1 a.m. and opened a four-song set with "By The Way" with drummer Chad Smith flanked by Jack Irons and Cliff Martinez, two former drummers with the band.

Flea gave a moving speech in which spoke of his passion to play for the musicians before him. He choked back tears as he thanked his mother.

Three white middle-class smart alecks from New York City, the Beastie Boys were initially dismissed as beer-swilling frat boys following their 1986 debut album "License To Ill," which featured songs like "(You Gotta) Fight For Your Right (To Party!)" and "Girls." But their follow-up, "Paul's Boutique," was acclaimed by critics and brought the Beasties credibility in the black hip-hop community.

"It broke the mold," said Public Enemy's Chuck D, later citing one of the group's lines. "The Beastie Boys are indeed three bad brothers who made history. They brought a whole new look to rap and hip-hop. They proved that rap could come from any street—not just a few."

Only two of the three Beasties attended the ceremony. Michael "Mike D" Diamond, Adam "Ad-Rock" Horovitz read a speech by Adam "MCA" Yauch, who has been fighting cancer.

The Beasties are just the third hip-hop act to enter the hall, joining Grand Master Flash and the Furious Five and Run DMC.

Kid Rock joined the Roots in a medley of Beastie hits, including "No Sleep `Til Brooklyn" and "Sabotage."

Stevie Van Zandt, one of Bruce Springsteen's sidemen in the E Street Band, inducted the Small Faces and Faces, bands that included Rod Stewart and Ronnie Wood, two rock superstars.

Van Zandt credited the underrated bands for having a major influence on generations of rockers. He said both were blessed to have strong lead singers in the late Steve Marriott and Rod Stewart.

"Not many bands get two lives or two of the greatest white soul singers in the history of rock and roll," he said.

Stewart came down with the flu this week and couldn't attend. Simply Red's lead singer Mick Hucknall, a friend of the band, filled on three songs including the classic "Stay With Me," with Wood, previously inducted with the Rolling Stones, delivering an exquisite slide guitar.

During a speech that was at times comical but heartfelt throughout, John Mellencamp inducted Donovan, a balladeer from the flower-power 1960s once labeled "the new Dylan." Donovan Leitch had a string of hits in the `60s with "Sunshine Superman," "Hurdy Gurdy Man" and "Mellow Yellow."

During his remarks, Mellencamp raised the copy of Donovan's "Fairy Tale" album he bought 47 years ago as a kid in Indiana.

"I wasn't just listening to Donovan, I was living Donovan," Mellencamp said. "He was my inspiration. One of the original originals."

The influential Nyro, who died in 1997, never reached commercial success but wrote hits for other artists. She was inducted by singer Bette Midler.

"I loved her the moment I dropped the needle on the vinyl," Midler said. "She was the very essence of New York City. Not in the gritty real sense, but in the passionate, romantic, ethereal, eternal sense."

Carole King inducted late rock promoter Don Kirchner, who helped launch the careers of Prince and the Eagles.

Smokey Robinson inducted long-deserving backup bands for early rock artists. The groups included Buddy Holly's The Crickets, James Brown's The Famous Flames, Bill Hailey's The Comets and Robinson's The Miracles.

Tom Petty guitars stolen in Southern California

CULVER CITY, Calif. (AP)—Five guitars belonging to Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers have been stolen from a Southern California soundstage where the band has been rehearsing for an upcoming tour.

Culver City Police Sgt. Dan Sukal says the theft at The Culver Studios was reported Thursday.

On its website, the band offered a "no questions asked" $7,500 reward for information leading to the return of the instruments.

The stolen guitars include Petty's blond 1967 12-string Rickenbacker and his Gibson SGTVJunior, Mike Campbell's blue Dusenberg, Ron Blair's Fender Broadcaster and Scott Thurston's 1967 Epiphone Sheridan.

The band is known for a string of hit singles such as "American Girl", "Don't Do Me Like That," and "Breakdown." Their tour kicks off on April 18 in Broomfield, Colo.

The Culver Studios is a sprawling complex of 16 soundstages west of downtown Los Angeles.

Woody's To Rome with Love' shows the sweet life

ROME (AP)—Woody Allen brought "To Rome with Love" to the city that inspired his latest film, but some homegrown critics are grumbling that the American director's new work is loaded with old-fashioned Italian stereotypes.

At a news conference Friday in Rome following a screening for Italian journalists, Allen exuded a fuzzy, love-struck view of the country.

"(Americans) have an enormously affectionate feeling about Italy," he declared. "They think of Italy as a country that is enormously warm . ... It's a very easygoing place to live, a place that enjoys life and that stands for everything positive about life."

That sunny assessment of their country, which is now enduring tough economic austerity measures, including new taxes, job cuts and higher retirement ages, sparked objections from some Italian journalists. One contended the film was "superficial."

Allen responded by saying his sole intention was making an entertaining movie set in Rome.

"When I come to a place to make a movie, I give you my own impression of it, the things that strike me as dramatic or comic, that would be fun to see," he said. "I have no great insights at all into Italian politics, Italian culture."

The film, in the form of vignettes, is a light-hearted romp through a cobblestoned, seemingly always sunny city. Stars include Allen, Penelope Cruz, Alec Baldwin and Italian comic actor/director Roberto Benigni.

Only Italian journalists were invited to the screening because it was shown in its dubbed version. And as Allen put it, "I don't like dubbing at all."

Benigni, the exuberant "Life Is Beautiful;" Oscar winner, defended Allen's view of Italy.

He recounted how at one point while filming, a Rome ambulance, siren whining, drove by. Seeing the filming, the ambulance slammed on its brakes, roared back in reverse, and the crew jumped out to take a couple of photos with Benigni before racing off to pick up an ailing patient.

"Mr. Allen said, `Only in Italy, only in Italy.' In fact, it could have been the title of the film," Benigni observed, chuckling.

The movie marks Allen's first time on the screen since his 2006 "Scoop." Another paean to a European capital by Allen, "Midnight in Paris," packed theaters and won him an Academy Award this year for original screenplay.

"To Rome with Love" opens June 22 in the United States.

Jolie-Pitt engagement certain to fuel media frenzy

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Will and Kate were just the warm-up for the true wedding of the century.

After years of cohabitation, six kids and countless tabloid headlines, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie made it official: They plan to make it official.

If you thought the media circus involving the world's most glamorous couple was on overdrive before, just wait. Now that Brangelina are officially engaged, expect endless speculation about where and when they'll wed, what they'll wear, what their kids' roles will be, and who might get to attend the celebration.

"This is really a state wedding," said Stephen Galloway, executive editor of features at The Hollywood Reporter. "This is America's equivalent to Prince William and Kate Middleton."

He called the Brangelina wedding "the media event of the new century."

Pitt's manager confirmed the couple's engagement Friday after Jolie was spotted wearing a diamond ring on her wedding finger. Jeweler Robert Procop said he spent a year working with Pitt to design the ring.

"The prominent engagement ring is giving the world a warning," Galloway said. "It says look out, get ready."

But Bradley Jacobs, a senior editor at Us Weekly, sees things differently. He anticipates the wedding will be a private, even low-key affair.

AP

In this Feb. 26, 2012 file photo, actress Angelina Jolie, right, and actor Brad Pitt arrive before the 84th Academy Awards in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles.

"I don't think you're going to see a bunch of fanfare," he said. "It's certainly not going to be a Kim Kardashian-style wedding... It's going to be very subdued."

Still, expect massive media coverage either way: "We will not rest until we know when and where and how and who's going to be there," Jacobs said.

Entire magazine issues could be devoted to each star's wedding-day outfits and hairdos.

"Every single designer on the planet will be pursuing Angelina for the dress," Galloway said. "It's literally worth millions of dollars in business."

Jolie's wedding dress is a career-making outfit for the winning designer.

Even Pitt's look leaves room for ample speculation: Long hair or short? Facial scruff or clean shaven? A classic tuxedo? And designed by whom?

Then there's the guest list. Who will be the best man and maid of honor? Will Jolie's father, Jon Voight, attend? Will George Clooney be in the house? Jolie has said she doesn't have many close friends.

"This is going to be a map of the inner state of their private life," Galloway said. "This is like Kremlinology. You'll be able to read all sorts of things into this wedding."

Unless, of course, the two elope.

The timing of the engagement and the wedding are also fodder for editorial exploration. The couple long maintained that they wouldn't marry until the right to do so was extended to all Americans, but when Galloway interviewed Pitt for a February cover story, the 48-year-old actor said he didn't think they'd be able to hold out that long.

"It means so much to my kids, and they ask about it," Pitt said at the time. "And it means something to me, too, to make that kind of commitment."

But days later, he backtracked, saying he'd spoken too soon.

"There's a certain mystery in these contradictory statements made in the weeks leading up to this (engagement news)," Galloway said. "People who've been together a long time get married when things are great or when you want to shore up things that are not so great."

The A-listers have been partners since they began a relationship in 2005 while working on the film "Mr. & Mrs. Smith."

Already megawatt superstars in their own right, the romantic pairing of Pitt and Jolie instantly made them Hollywood's most glamorous and photographed couple. The fact that Pitt was still married to Jennifer Aniston when he met Jolie only fueled the tabloid fire; Pitt and Aniston divorced in 2005 after five years of marriage.

Robin Gibb in coma with pneumonia in hospital

LONDON (AP)—Former Bee Gee Robin Gibb is in a coma after contracting pneumonia, a statement on his official website said Saturday.

The statement, which confirmed media reports that the singer was gravely ill, said "we are all hoping and praying that he will pull through."

The Press Association news agency reported that family members including wife Dwina and brother Barry were at Gibb's bedside in a London hospital.

Gibb's publicist, Doug Wright, declined to comment, but Gibb's son has acknowledged that the 62-year-old musician is seriously ill in a hospital.

Gibb was hospitalized last year for stomach and colon problems. He has not specified the exact nature of his illness—widely reported to be cancer—but told the BBC he had a growth on his colon that was removed.

He said earlier this year that he was making a good recovery, but had intestinal surgery last month and was forced to miss the London premiere of his classical "Titanic Requiem" this week because of illness.

His son Robin-John Gibb said the family was "praying for him and hoping he has a speedy recovery."

The Bee Gees—British-born, Australia-raised brothers Robin, Barry and Maurice Gibb—had a string of disco-era hits including "How Deep is Your Love" and "Stayin' Alive." Their soundtrack to the movie "Saturday Night Fever" was one of the best-selling albums of the 1970s.

The Bee Gees became members of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and won seven Grammy Awards.

AP

Robin Gibb performs during the "Jose Carreras Gala" rehearsal in Leipzig, eastern Germany, in this Dec. 14, 2006 file photo.

Maurice Gibb, Robin's twin brother, died in 2003 at the age of 53 due to complications from a twisted intestine.

The Bee Gees' younger brother, Andy, who had a successful solo career, died in 1988 at age 30 of a heart ailment.

Lionel Richie, Pamela Anderson among tax scofflaws

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Pamela Anderson and Lionel Richie owe the government money.

California tax authorities said Anderson owes $524,241 in personal income taxes. The Franchise Tax Board included the "Baywatch" star on a list of the state's 500 biggest income-tax delinquents posted Friday.

Meanwhile, E! Online reports that Richie owes the federal government $1.1 million in unpaid taxes and that a lien has been issued warning that the singers' assets may be seized if he doesn't pay up in a timely manner.

A message seeking comments from Richie's publicist wasn't immediately returned Saturday. A call to Anderson's tax attorney, Robert Leonard, wasn't immediately returned.

California law requires tax authorities to update and publish the names and amounts owed by the state's 500 biggest tax scofflaws twice a year.

"When taxpayers do not pay their fair share, it places an unfair burden on those who do," the tax board said on its website, which said the 500 owe the state nearly $233 million.

Other notable names on California's tax-delinquent list include CNET co-founder Halsey Minor, Joe Francis, the founder of the "Girls Gone Wild" video empire, actor Nick Cassavetes and boxer James Toney.

Minor and his wife, Shannon, are on top of the list for owing the state $10.5 million in personal income taxes.

Francis owes $794,000, Cassavetes, the son of filmmaker John Cassavetes and actress Gena Rowlands, owes $273,000 while Toney owes $354,000.

Friend's focus on food may be turning into an obsession

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My friend "Veronica" is obsessed with food—not just eating it, but also talking about it, looking at it and watching me eat. She frequently asks me what I'm eating, especially if it's something I have made. I can't open a container of yogurt without her asking what flavor it is.

On a daily basis, Veronica announces what she's making for dinner that night, what she made the night before and what kind of desserts she has planned. I used to share my food with her, but I stopped when she wanted bites I didn't offer. I had to stop buying from the vending machine at work, too, because Veronica began to expect to share. When I refused, she'd make "joking" snide remarks. She never has any money to return the favors.

Veronica will tap her cup on the table and watch me out of the corner of her eye. Or, she'll stare at what I'm eating. If anyone at the table has extra food or dessert, Veronica will be the first to take it. She could tell you what all five women at that table had for lunch that day, but she's particularly interested in mine.

Veronica is a good cook and she's not overweight. But she's driving me crazy. Is her obsession some kind of disorder?

FOOD-SHY IN OHIO

DEAR FOOD-SHY: Your friend does seem to be preoccupied with food. From your description of her behavior it's surprising that she doesn't have a weight problem. Yet you say she makes dinners and desserts every night.

Could it be that she doesn't eat breakfast or lunch, which is why she's mooching off the others? Or could she be short of money? While I agree that what you have described could be signs of an obsession, it is possible that the woman is famished.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I'm 18 and a high school graduate. My best friend was raped a year ago. It took her a long time to be able to tell me, and although I begged her to tell, she would not go to the authorities. She has heard stories from other girls and has reason to believe the same boy has raped them, too.

I believe if she came forward, the other girls might speak up. Then he won't be able to continue to do this to other girls. But I can't change her mind.

Is there something I can do? Can I go to the police and tell them what she told me? Should I talk to a lawyer? I don't want to see her regret not doing something. She's very fragile and this is so hard for her. She has told very few people. Please tell me how to help her. I don't know what to do.

WISH I COULD DO MORE, BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

DEAR WISH: The most helpful thing you can do is encourage your friend to contact a rape treatment center. Although the rape occurred a year ago, she can still benefit from counseling to help her recover from the trauma. If she is reluctant to go, then give her the phone number of the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (R.A.I.N.N.). It's 800-656-4673. A counselor there may be able to help her find the help she needs.

However, she needs to do this for herself. As well-meaning as you are, you can't do it for her.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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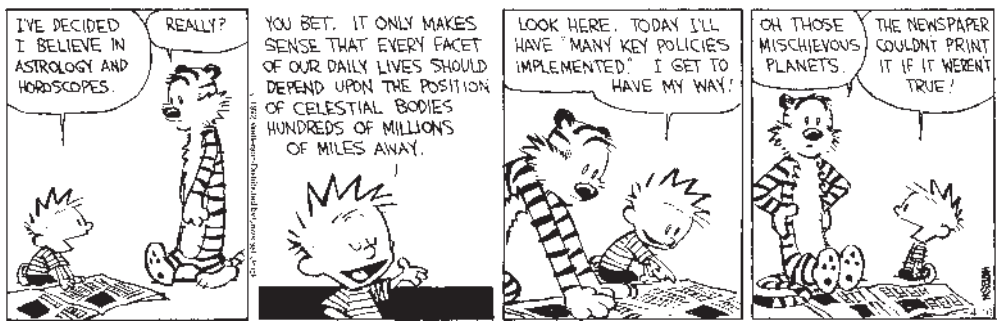
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I'VE DECIDED I BELIEVE IN ASTROLOGY AND HORDSCOPES.
REALLY?
YOU BET. IT ONLY MAKES SENSE THAT EVERY FACET OF OUR DAILY LIVES SHOULD DEPEND UPON THE POSITION OF CELESTIAL BODIES HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF MILES AWAY.
LOOK HERE. TODAY I'LL HAVE "MANY KEY POLICIES IMPLEMENTED." I GET TO HAVE MY WAY!
OH THOSE MISCHIEVOUS PLANETS.
THE NEWSPAPER COULDNT PRINT IT IF IT WEREN'T TRUE!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I'VE SEEN IT ALL
NOTHING IMPRESSES ME
I JUST FELT THE BEST BREEZE!
JON, ON THE OTHER HAND...
JIM DAVIS 4-16
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Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

THIS NEW BASEBALL VIDEO GAME IS SO REAL.
YOU CAN NAME YOURSELF OWNER, TOO.
YOU CAN ACTUALLY CONTROL ALL THE PRICES INSIDE THE STADIUM.
REALLY? SHOW ME HOW.
MY FIRST ACT OF BUSINESS WILL BE TO LOWER THE COST OF BEER...
AND THEN CHARGE TO USE THE BATHROOMS?
4-16
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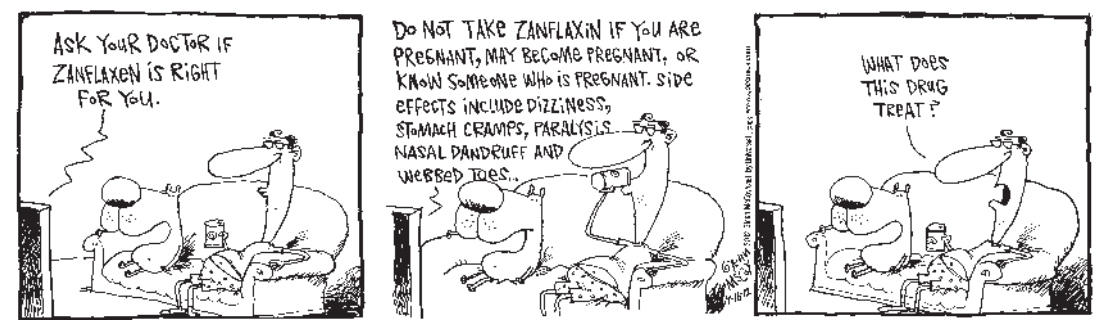
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


ASK YOUR DOCTOR IF ZANFLAXEN IS RIGHT FOR YOU.
DO NOT TAKE ZANFLAXIN IF YOU ARE PREGNANT, MAY BECOME PREGNANT, OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS PREGNANT. SIDE EFFECTS INCLUDE DIZZINESS, STOMACH CRAMPS, PARALYSIS, NASAL DANDRUFF AND WEBBED TOES..
WHAT DOES THIS DRUG TREAT?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

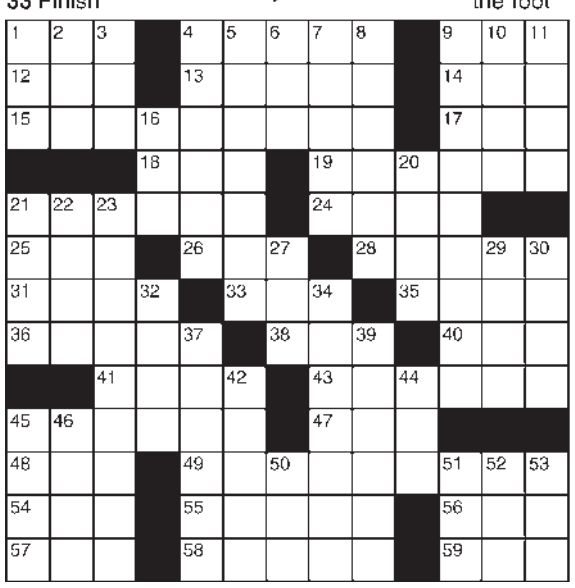
ACROSS
1 Use the couch
4 Fidel Castro, e.g.
9 Picks out of a lineup, briefly
12 Japanese pond carp
13 Last Greek letter
14 Ultra-modernist
15 Office-holder
17 Pitcher's topper
18 Apiece
19 Merman and Mertz
21 Label founded by Clive Davis
24 Gets a gander at
25 Fellow
26 Pvt.'s superior
28 Takes five
31 Snap-shots
33 Finish
35 Willy Wonka's creator
36 Narrow cuts
38 Sleuth, for short
40 Born
41 — moss
43 Fed well, as a Biblical calf
45 Twist in pain
47 Mrs. McKinley
48 Colora-tion
49 Rainy, perhaps
54 Hostel
55 Surround
56 Sticky stuff
57 Encoun-tered
58 Uses a swizzle stick
59 Rhyming praise

DOWN
1 Schuss
2 Charged particle
3 Twitch
4 Halley's et al.
5 Resent-ment
6 Spelling contest
7 Actress Moore-head
8 Talk on and on
9 Nonstop
10 Trans-action
11 Bribes
16 — and downs
20 Pay attention
21 Rock band's gear
22 Bar
23 Just beginning
27 Explosive letters
29 You
30 Coaster
32 Undo a dele
34 Graffiti writer, e.g.
37 Masters, in old India
39 West Pointers
42 Doctrine
44 Scot's chapeau
45 Caprice
46 Mysteri-ous character
50 Vegas-based crime show
51 Swelled head
52 Agree silently
53 Part of the foot

Solution time: 24 mins.

T	O	W	■	P	E	R	K	■	S	A	L	K
A	L	E	■	A	L	O	E	■	P	L	E	A
L	I	P	■	L	E	S	T	■	R	E	S	T
C	O	T	T	A	G	E	C	H	E	E	S	E
■	■	■	I	C	Y	■	H	U	E	■	■	■
N	O	O	N	E	■	J	A	M	■	F	L	O
A	W	A	Y	■	R	U	M	■	I	I	O	N
P	E	R	■	J	I	G	■	R	E	E	S	E
■	■	■	P	O	D	■	M	E	N	■	■	■
H	O	U	S	E	D	R	E	S	S	I	N	G
A	G	R	A	■	I	A	R	A	■	T	A	N
S	E	A	L	■	E	V	I	L	■	C	P	A
H	E	L	M	■	R	I	T	E	■	H	E	W

Saturday's answer 4-16



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jon Cryer, 47; Martin Lawrence, 47; Ellen Barkin, 58; Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, 65.

Happy Birthday: Take on a new project or responsibility that will help you meet new people or expand the possibility to work alongside someone you respect and feel you can learn from. This is a great time to look into personal or professional partnerships that can alter the way you earn your living in the future. Your numbers are 2, 10, 16, 28, 33, 47, 49.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Secrets will not help you solve personal problems. Be open regarding your feelings and ask questions if you think someone is keeping something from you. Anger isn't the answer, but good communication will restore your faith. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Open up to new experiences. Venture down avenues that offer something unique. Strive to meet people who have something to share with you. Put more emphasis on being a participant. What you do now will help you diversify at a later date. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't get caught in an emotional trap. You have to get a clear picture of how your personal decisions will influence your professional status or your reputation. Problems will spin out of control. Make sure you have a back-up plan. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Free your mind with new information. Experience events and activities that can expand your interests and give you something to strive for. Don't let too many choices lead to a stalemate. Pick and choose wisely. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Use your head and communicate with the people most likely to help you reach your goals. You will learn quickly if you are put in a situation that challenges you. Don't use long-time responsibilities as an excuse not to do something. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You'll be too emotionally confused to make a good decision. Back away from anyone putting pressure on you to do something you don't want to do. A personal relationship will undergo a dramatic change if you don't make the right choice. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Stick close to home and practice your beliefs. Your standing will suffer if you do anything that appears to be underhanded. A stellar reputation must be maintained, even if it means letting someone down who has asked way too much of you. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Improve your digs. The more you do to make your surroundings more conducive to your goals, the better. A chance to improve your position is apparent if you join forces with someone who has something to contribute to your game plan. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Poor information, anxiety and too much on your mind will lead to disaster in communications or while traveling. Find out firsthand what really happened and you will be able to dismantle someone's attempt to exploit you. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't allow anyone to take advantage of you. There will be ulterior motives behind the compliments you receive. Avoid anyone looking for a cash handout or inside information that is not to be divulged. Don't mix business with pleasure. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Keep your thoughts a secret until you know where you stand. Someone will take advantage of you emotionally, leading to ill feelings and arguments. Reasonable, responsible action is your best recourse. Avoid being put in a vulnerable position. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't get all worked up over nothing, especially in any situation that can affect your livelihood. A love relationship must not stifle your productivity. Problems with authority figures and institutions are apparent. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, passionate and a problem solver. You strive for perfection.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				4		6		5
		5			3	2		
	1		5			7	3	9
		3	1				2	
7				5				3
	2				6	9		
6	3	1			7		9	
		9	4			1		
5		8		1				

Difficulty Level ★ 4/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

2	6	4	7	9	5	1	8	3
5	8	7	6	1	3	4	9	2
3	1	9	8	2	4	7	6	5
7	9	6	2	5	8	3	1	4
1	4	2	3	7	9	8	5	6
8	5	3	4	6	1	9	2	7
4	3	1	5	8	6	2	7	9
6	2	8	9	4	7	5	3	1
9	7	5	1	3	2	6	4	8

Difficulty level ★★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SIGHTSEEING **Solution: 8 letters**

S	S	V	P	A	W	A	N	D	E	R	G	C	V	E
E	K	O	A	L	S	R	P	I	C	T	U	R	E	S
R	R	Y	V	C	A	D	S	E	I	T	I	C	N	P
U	A	A	S	E	A	N	N	L	T	T	D	A	T	M
S	M	G	L	C	R	T	E	A	I	I	E	M	U	I
A	D	E	E	R	R	N	I	S	L	A	D	E	R	L
E	N	S	I	U	E	A	I	O	D	S	S	R	E	G
R	A	E	S	I	S	V	P	G	N	N	I	A	R	T
T	L	I	U	S	E	Ⓓ	V	E	H	E	U	P	B	O
R	O	R	R	E	Ⓐ	X	P	I	R	T	A	O	I	U
A	C	O	E	Ⓞ	R	W	P	U	O	S	A	T	R	R
V	A	M	Ⓡ	P	C	A	T	L	S	T	B	S	D	G
E	T	E	O	M	H	L	L	A	O	A	I	E	S	I
L	E	M	A	A	U	K	G	I	Y	R	K	E	T	F
S	P	A	M	C	S	E	A	S	O	N	E	K	Y	T

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Bays, Bike, Birds, Boat, Camera, Camp, Cities, Cruise, Culture, Explore, Gift, Glimpse, Ground, Guided, Islands, Landmarks, Learn, Leisure, Locate, Maps, Memories, Overnight, Passage, Pictures, Plane, Research, Road, Roam, Sail, Season, Seek, Skyscrapers, Stop, Toll, Tour, Train, Travel, Treasures, Trip, Vacation, Venture, Visit, Voyage, Walk, Wander

Last Saturday's Answer: Remember

To order THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD Volume 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34 or 35 book: $9.95 each ($13 Canada, $19 all other countries). Send check or money order in U.S. funds only to WONDERWORD, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6479. Order online at puzzles.com. Over-the-phone orders accepted Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Central Time.

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Wilson, Pujols lift Angels past Yankees

NEW YORK (AP) C.J. Wilson beat the Yankees for the first time in his career, Albert Pujols and his teammates teed off and the Los Angeles Angels romped past New York 7-1 Saturday.

Howie Kendrick, Chris Iannetta and Vernon Wells homered as the Angels ended their three-game skid and stopped New York's winning streak at four.

Pujols got in the swing, too, after a quiet start with his new club. He singled sharply his first time up, then hit an RBI double that one-hopped the center-field wall. He later lined out twice and flied out to the fence in left.

Wilson (2-0) effectively pitched inside and worked out of frequent trouble, allowing only one run in six innings.

Phil Hughes (0-2) gave up eight hits and six runs in 3 1-3 innings.

AP

Los Angeles Angels pitcher C.J. Wilson delivers the ball to the New York Yankees during the sixth inning of a baseball game on Saturday, April 14, 2012, at Yankee Stadium in New York. Wilson got the win as the Angels defeated the Yankees, 7-1.

Rangers 6, Twins 2

In Minneapolis, Yu Darvish kept wriggling out of trouble in five-plus innings, Josh Hamilton homered among his three hits and Texas beat Minnesota.

Adrian Beltre drove in two runs and put Texas ahead with a single in the seventh that scored Brandon Snyder, who had a career-high three hits.

The Twins failed to score with the bases loaded three times, and lost for the sixth time in their first eight games.

Darvish, making his second start, was removed after loading the bases with two outs in the sixth. He allowed two runs - one earned - on nine hits, striking out four and walking four.

Robbie Ross (1-0) earned the win and Brian Duensing (0-1) was the loser.

Red Sox 13, Rays 5

In Boston, David Ortiz drove in five runs and hit one of Boston's five homers as the Red Sox pounded Tampa Bay for the second straight day.

The game was tied 5-all until Mike Aviles homered off Burke Badenhop (0-1) to start a three-run seventh inning. Aviles moved into the leadoff spot in place of an injured Jacoby Ellsbury.

The Red Sox rallied from a 4-0 deficit in the first inning as Clay Buchholz (1-0) settled down after that rough start.

Ellsbury, last year's runner-up in the AL MVP voting, went on the 15-day disabled list before the game with a partially dislocated right shoulder. He was hurt trying to break up a double play on Friday.

Indians 11, Royals 9, 10 innings

In Kansas City, Shin-Soo Choo hit a two-run double with two outs in the 10th inning and Cleveland beat Kansas City in a testy game that included three ejections and a pair of bench-clearing scuffles.

The Royals rallied from a seven-run hole to force extra innings before Choo drove a pitch from Greg Holland (0-1) to left-center. Jarrod Dyson nearly caught it at the top of the wall, but the ball popped loose and Jason Kipnis and Michael Brantley scored the go-ahead runs.

Jairo Asencio (1-1) earned his first major league win by pitching a clean ninth inning, while Chris Perez set the Royals down in order for his second save.

Orioles 6, Blue Jays 4

In Toronto, Nolan Reimold hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the ninth inning and Baltimore beat the Blue Jays .

Wilson Betemit tied it with a home run in the eighth and Chris Davis also went deep for the Orioles, who won their second straight game at Rogers Centre. Coming into the series, Baltimore was 5-29 in Toronto dating to 2008.

Reimold hit a towering drive to left off Francisco Cordero (0-1), his second homer of the season and second ninth-inning shot in two days.

Luis Ayala (1-0) worked one inning for the win and Jim Johnson finished for his fourth save.

White Sox 5, Tigers 1

In Chicago, Gavin Floyd overcame control problem to pitch six scoreless innings and Alexei Ramirez homered as the White Sox beat Detroit.

Tigers left-hander Adam Wilk, making first big league start, was hit in his pitching shoulder by teammate Prince Fielder's foul ball while sitting in the dugout in the sixth inning.

Wilk (0-1) left with a bruised shoulder but is expected to make his next start. He allowed two runs on three hits in five innings Saturday. He struck out four and walked one.

Tyler Flowers and Paul Konerko also homered for the White Sox, who won their fourth straight game.

Floyd (1-1) pitched around three walks and three hit batters. He struck out six and allowed only three hits.

Mariners 4, Athletics 0

In Seattle, Jesus Montero finally made the splash Seattle has been waiting for with a solo homer and a two-run double, and Hector Noesi threw eight impressive innings to beat Oakland.

The two centerpieces Seattle received in its offseason trade with the New York Yankees shined together on the same night. Montero showed off his power with a line-drive homer and later his ability to go to the opposite field by ripping a two-out double just inside the right-field line.

Meanwhile, Noesi (1-1) was brilliant on the mound, rebounding from a rough first start with the Mariners. He gave up five hits, struck out six and picked up his first major league win as a starter.

Mets 5, Phillies 0

In Philadelphia, Jonathon Niese and two relievers combined on a six-hitter, David Wright homered despite a broken finger and the New York Mets beat the Philadelphia Phillies 5-0 on Saturday.

Niese (2-0) allowed five hits and struck out five in 6 2-3 innings. Bobby Parnell got four outs and Jon Rauch pitched the ninth.

Wright was 3 for 5, including a long homer on the first pitch he saw after missing three games with a broken right pinkie. Lucas Duda also connected for the Mets, who are off to a surprising 6-2 start.

Nationals 4, Reds 1

In Washington, Edwin Jackson threw a two-hitter for his fifth career complete game and Adam LaRoche added to his unusually strong start with a tiebreaking two-run double, helping the Nationals win their fifth game in a row.

Other than a rocky second inning, Jackson (1-0) was as efficient and effective as can be, striking out nine. He retired 16 consecutive batters in one stretch, until walking Chris Heisey leading off the eighth.

As if all of that weren't enough, Jackson even singled off Reds starter Homer Bailey (0-2).

Cardinals 5, Cubs 1

In St. Louis, Lance Lynn pitched effectively into the sixth inning and Yadier Molina had two hits and two RBIs, leading the Cardinals to a win over the Cubs.

Lynn (2-0) gave up four hits and one run in 5 1-3 innings. He struck out five, walked two and lowered his ERA to 1.50.

Jon Jay hit his second home run of the season in the seventh off Shawn Camp.

The Cardinals broke open a scoreless game with four runs in the fourth off Chris Volstad (0-1). Molina brought in Matt Holliday and Matt Carpenter with a single up the middle. Daniel Descalso had an RBI triple and Tyler Greene then hit a RBI single.

Astros 5, Marlins 4

In Miami, Carlos Lee drove in the tying run with a two-out single in the ninth inning, and an error by left fielder Logan Morrison allowed the go-ahead run to score as Houston rallied to beat closer Heath Bell and Miami.

Bell, one of the Marlins' All-Star acquisitions this offseason, took the mound with a 4-1 lead to start the ninth but had a shaky performance for the third time in as many outings this season.

The Astros had four hits in the inning and scored four times, taking advantage of three Miami errors.

Braves 2, Brewers 1

In Atlanta, Mike Minor pitched two-hit ball into the eighth inning to give Atlanta's rotation a lift and the Braves survived a ninth-inning scare to beat Shaun Marcum and Milwaukee for their fourth straight victory.

Craig Kimbrel pitched out of a bases-loaded jam in the ninth, striking out pinch-hitter George Kottaras and Mat Gamel for his fourth save.

Minor (1-1) recorded 18 consecutive outs after hitting Corey Hart with a pitch to open the second inning. The left-hander did not allow an earned run in 7 1-3 innings, becoming the first Braves starter this season to get an out after the fifth. He struck out four and walked one in the longest start of his career.

Giants 4, Pirates 3

In San Francisco, the way Melky Cabrera has produced in his short time with San Francisco, Emmanuel Burriss prepared himself to get home however he could.

Burriss scored the winning run on shortstop Clint Barmes' throwing error in the ninth inning to give the Giants a 4-3 win over the struggling Pittsburgh Pirates on Saturday night.

With the bases loaded and nobody out, Cabrera hit a sharp grounder to Barmes, who was playing in at the edge of the infield grass. He made a low throw home that bounced in front of catcher Rod Barajas, who tried to make a backhand stop as the ball skipped away.

Rockies 8, Diamondbacks

In Denver, Todd Helton hit a two-run homer off closer J.J. Putz in the bottom of the ninth inning and the Colorado Rockies rallied for an 8-7 win over the Arizona Diamondbacks on a rain-soaked Saturday night.

With two outs, Helton belted his first homer of the season down the right-field line and the towering shot stayed just fair. He raised his hands in the air as he rounded the bases and was mobbed by teammates at home plate.

Dodgers 6, Padres 1

In Los Angeles, Getting Andre Ethier and Matt Kemp rolling early in the season has helped the Los Angeles Dodgers to the best start in the majors. And getting Ted Lilly back in the rotation can only make them better.

Lilly pitched seven innings of two-hit ball in his season debut after coming off the disabled list, Kemp hit a pair of two-run homers and Ethier also went deep, leading the Dodgers to a 6-1 victory over the San Diego Padres on Saturday night.

The Dodgers, who had to win 25 of their final 35 games last season just to finish three games above .500, are off to an 8-1 start - their best since beginning their 1981 World Series championship season 9-1.

Pettersson holds 1-stroke lead at RBC Heritage

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. (AP)—Carl Pettersson couldn't have had a better time with Colt Knost at the RBC Heritage. He hopes to have as much fun when the two play again on Sunday.

Pettersson had a run of five straight birdies on the front nine and finished with a birdie on the 18th hole for a 66 and a one-stroke lead over Knost heading into the final round of the RBC Heritage on Saturday.

Pettersson and Knost chatted and laughed throughout the round, looking more like a pair of duffers at the local muni out for a weekend round rather than pro golfers chasing a PGA Tour title.

"Two fat guys played in three hours, 48 minutes," Pettersson said with a smile. "That was pretty good. But we had a good time."

Especially Pettersson who used his birdie streak to overtake a nervous Knost and build a three-shot lead through 10 holes. Knost tamed the butterflies enough to find the game that had him in the lead here after Thursday and Friday, tying for the top after Pettersson's bogey on the par-5 15th hole.

Pettersson moved in front at the end with a stunning approach that slid by the cup on No. 18 for a closing birdie. The two will match up once again in the final pairing Sunday.

"I'm going to try tomorrow to have fun," said Knost, seeking his first win on the PGA Tour.

Zach Johnson, the 2007 Masters winner, shot a 66 to move to third at 8 under, three behind the leaders. Two-time RBC Heritage champion Boo Weekley had a 70 and was in fourth another shot behind. Defending champ Brandt Snedeker (69), Kevin Na (70) and Robert Garrigus (70) were next at 6 under.

World No. 1 Luke Donald failed to make a move toward keeping the top spot, his even-par 71 leaving him at 2 over and tied for 52nd. Donald needs to finish eighth or better to fend off No. 2 Rory McIlroy, who like Masters champion Bubba Watson and most other top golfers, was taking the week off.

Knost's roller coaster of a round included a 190-yard drive off No. 1 to take bogey followed by an eagle on No. 2. And there were plenty of missed fairways on the tight holes of Harbour Town Golf Links. Still, he kept close enough with a 69.

"I could have got rattled pretty easy after that start," Knost said. "But like I said, I'm really proud of the way I hung in."

Pettersson threatened to turn the tournament into a runaway with his early birdie streak. Knost would not let that happen, overcoming some unsteady play to keep close to his playing partner.

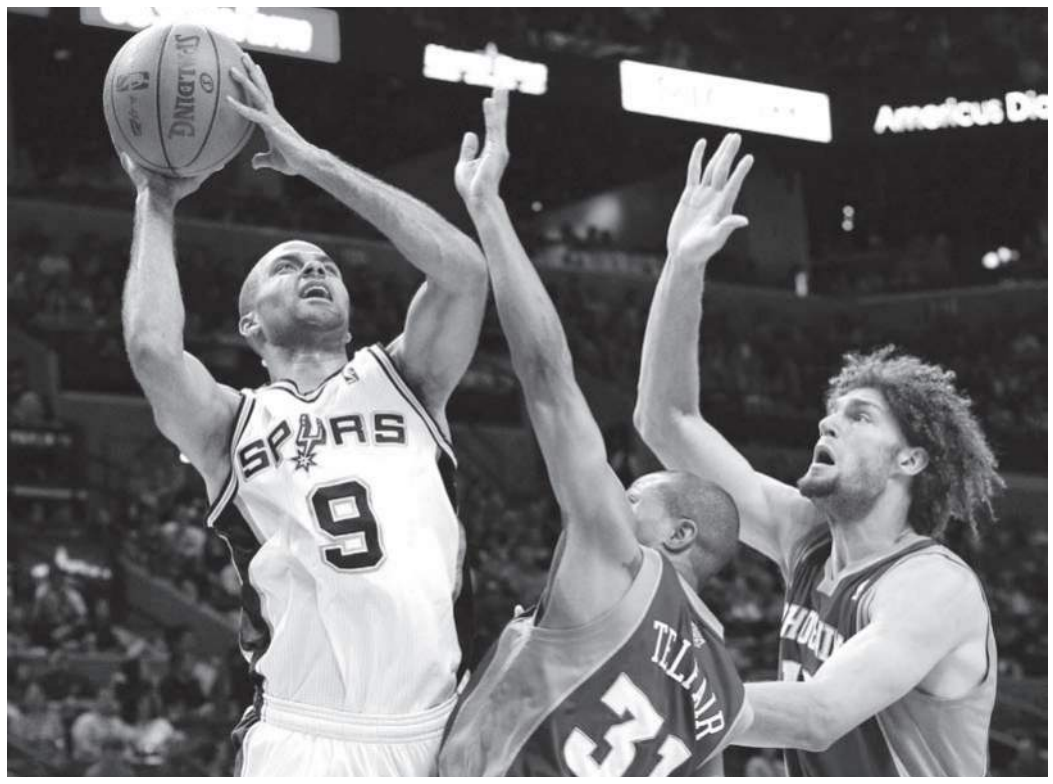
Spurs clinch Southwest Division championship

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Tim Duncan had 19 points and 10 rebounds, Tony Parker scored 14 and San Antonio officially clinched the Southwest Division title.

More importantly, the Spurs stayed neck-and-neck with Oklahoma City for the No. 1 playoff seed in the Western Conference. San Antonio remains a game behind the Thunder with eight games to go.

Sebastian Telfair scored 21 points for Phoenix, which simply wants to make the postseason. Yet the Suns never looked ready to play from the start and slipped 1 1/2 games behind Denver and Houston for the West's eighth and final playoff spot.

Phoenix trailed by 17 before the first quarter was even halfway finished, and Steve Nash and Grant Hill sat out the entire second half.



AP

San Antonio Spurs' Tony Parker (9), of France, shoots as Phoenix Suns' Sebastian Telfair (31) and Robin Lopez, right, defend during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, April 14, 2012, in San Antonio.

Thunder 115, Timberwolves 110

In Minneapolis, Kevin Durant scored 43 points and Russell Westbrook had 35 and eight assists to keep the Oklahoma City Thunder atop the Western Conference with a 115-110 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Saturday night.

Durant scored 16 in the final seven minutes for the Thunder, who started the day one game ahead of the Spurs—but tied in the loss column—for the top seed in the West.

Anthony Randolph had 22 points and 11 rebounds and Michael Beasley scored 26 for the Timberwolves, who lost their ninth straight game and 25th in a row in April dating to 2009.

The Wolves were playing without All-Star Kevin Love, who missed his second straight game with a concussion.

Clippers 112, Warriors 104

In Los Angeles, Chris Paul had 28 points and 13 assists, and the Clippers beat Golden State to close within a game of the Lakers for the Pacific Division lead.

Blake Griffin added 20 points, DeAndre Jordan 18 and Mo Williams 14 in the Clippers' third straight win and 11th in their last 13 games. They are also chasing the idle Lakers for the third seed in the Western Conference with six games remaining.

The Clippers' 36 wins are their most since they won 40 games in 2006-07.

Nate Robinson led injury-riddled Golden State with 28 points.

Cavalier 98, Wizards 89

In Washington, Luke Harangody had 16 points and 10 rebounds, Anthony Parker scored 15 points and Tristan Thompson added 14 to lead Cleveland.

Donald Sloan had a career-high 13 points to help the Cavaliers win a game featuring teams that had combined to lose 23 of their 28 coming in.

John Wall scored 19 points to lead the Wizards, one night after missing 10 of 12 shots in a 103-65 loss at New York. Jordan Crawford had 18 points and Kevin Seraphin added 15.

The score was tied at 73 early in the fourth quarter before Cleveland took over. Parker made two free throws with 4:24 to go, giving the Cavaliers a 93-83 lead.

Celtics 94, Nets 82

In New Jersey, Avery Bradley hit three straight 3-pointers and scored 11 of his 18 points in a game-deciding third quarter as surging Boston beat New Jersey.

Kevin Garnett had 21 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Celtics, who have won 10 of 13, and 20 of 28 to take over first place in the Atlantic Division.

Rajon Rondo added 15 assists, Brandon Bass had 18 points and Paul Pierce 17 for Boston, which limited New Jersey to 34 second-half points in beating the Nets for the third time in three games this season.

Gerald Green had 15 points to lead New Jersey, while rookie Jordan Williams had 12 points and career-best 14 rebounds in recording his first double-double. Deron Williams had 12 points and 14 assists.

Grizzlies 103, Jazz 98

In Memphis, O.J. Mayo scored 17 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter to rally Memphis past Utah.

The Jazz held a 4-point lead early in the final period, but Mayo scored 10-straight points for Memphis to erase the advantage. His 3-pointer with 46 seconds left gave the Grizzlies enough of an advantage to win for the fifth time in six games overall and seventh straight at home.

Rudy Gay led Memphis with 26 points, 18 in the second half, and 12 rebounds, while Mike Conley and Marc Gasol added 17 points apiece. Conley also had six assists.

Al Jefferson and Devin Harris scored 20 points apiece for Utah. Paul Millsap and Gordon Hayward had 17 points each and Derrick Favors added 10 points and 14 rebounds.

Pacers 105, Bucks 99

In Milwaukee, Roy Hibbert had 23 points and 14 rebounds, including six free throws in the final 74 seconds, to lead Indiana to its fourth straight win.

Danny Granger scored 21 points and George Hill added 13 points for the Pacers.

Monta Ellis had 20 points and Brandon Jennings added 16 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds for Milwaukee. The Bucks lost for the third time in four games to fall 2 1/2 games behind New York and Philadelphia for one of the last two playoff spots in the Eastern Conference.

Neither team could make baskets in the final minutes, with Indiana missing its last nine shots and Milwaukee five straight before Ellis hit a 3-pointer with 11 seconds left to pull the Bucks to 103-99 with 11 seconds left.

Saints owner Tom Benson buys Hornets from NBA

NEW YORK (AP) Tom Benson brought stability to the Saints nearly three decades ago and now plans to do the same for the Hornets in small-market New Orleans.

The Saints' owner agreed Friday to purchase the Hornets from the NBA.

''We expect this club to be one of the most outstanding clubs in the league, otherwise I don't want to get involved,'' Benson said. ''This is just a good thing and I'm just glad to be a part of it.''

A person familiar with the deal says the purchase price is $338 million. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the financial terms have not been announced.

The NBA has been trying to sell the Hornets since buying the club from founder George Shinn in December 2010. While preparing the team for sale the league negotiated a new lease for the Hornets to remain in the state-owned New Orleans Arena through 2024.

The sale of the team to Benson has to be approved by the NBA's Board of Governors, which was meeting in New York on Friday.

''The city is one of the country's treasures and we really have found the perfect owner,'' Commissioner David Stern said. ''Our goal all along has been to get the Hornets bought by somebody whose commitment to New Orleans would be unrivaled.''

The framework of ownership negotiations were handled in a way that a new Hornets owner would have to accept the lease worked out between the NBA and Gov. Bobby Jindal. The lease agreement also called for $50 million in improvements to the basketball stadium, which sits right across the street from the Superdome.

Once the NBA approves the sale of the team to Benson, the next step is for the state Legislature to approve the arena lease deal because of the funding needed for stadium improvements. But legislative leaders already have publicly voiced support for the proposed lease deal, which would take effect in July.

The 84-year-old Benson, a New Orleans-native, has owned the Saints since 1985, when he stepped in to block efforts by other prospective investors to move the NFL franchise to Jacksonville, Fla. Now Benson has made another major investment to stabilize the NBA's presence in the Big Easy on the same day that the Hornets were hosting the Utah Jazz, the very team New Orleans lost to relocation in 1979.

Benson helped bring the Saints their first playoff appearance in 1987 and finally a Super Bowl title in 2010. His ownership of the Hornets means the two small-market franchises both will be locally owned and now can work as partners in their efforts to attract corporate sponsorships, and Hornets fans can at least hope that will translate to a better product on the hardwood.

''When you have somebody like Mr. Benson, I think it makes it a ton easier because you have stability and you have a foundation,'' Hornets coach Monty Williams said before Friday night's tip-off. ''It can only be good for me as a coach, our players and especially our city.''

Hornets forward Carl Landry, who signed only a one-year deal with New Orleans this season in part because of the ownership situation, said Benson's involvement ''definitely will help.''

''That was definitely a question mark this past summer, not knowing if the team was going to stay, not having an owner,'' Landry said. ''Being a free agent again this summer, the Hornets are a team I've been with the last two years and have grown accustomed to, and with the owner now, that definitely will help with resigning with the team.''

At the very least, the move provided Benson with some refreshingly positive publicity on the heels of the Saints' bounty scandal, which led the NFL to suspend head coach Sean Payton for the entire 2012 season—the same season that will see New Orleans host the Super Bowl.

Only a day before the Saints announced Benson's purchase of the Hornets, the NFL club announced that assistant head coach Joe Vitt, who also oversees linebackers, would be elevated to interim coach for the coming football season, despite his own six-game suspension in connection with the bounty probe.

While the Saints have become a cherished institution that has become entrenched in the local culture since the club's founding in 1967, the Hornets are relatively new to Louisiana's pro sports landscape.

The Hornets moved to New Orleans from Charlotte in 2002, but have often been on shaky ground since, including when the club spent two full seasons in Oklahoma City after Hurricane Katrina devastated large parts of southeast Louisiana in August 2005.

In 2010, former owner George Shinn decided to pull out. He was unable to find a buyer who would commit to keeping the team in New Orleans, so the NBA took the unprecedented step of taking ownership of the team and has been working to find a new permanent local owner for a year-and-a-half.

As part of the effort to attract a new owner, team officials spent the past offseason conducting an unusual campaign to build the club's season-ticket base to 10,000, which the league considers a benchmark for successful franchises. The campaign involved social mixers in the homes of prominent business people in the region.

The team also attracted more major corporate sponsors for the 2011-12 season than it had ever had since moving to the Big Easy.

It was not immediately clear how a change in ownership might the front office personnel who led marketing effort for the Hornets in the past year or the coaching staff, as there was no immediate word from Benson or his associates on that front.

Williams and general manager Dell Demps each are in their second season, having joined forces to help the Hornets make the playoffs last season.

This season, the team decided to honor star guard Chris Paul's request for a trade and went into rebuilding mode. Benson will take control of a club that will miss the playoffs, but which also will have at least one - probably two - picks in the NBA's draft lottery. The Hornets also control the Minnesota Timberwolves first-round pick in 2012.

Williams said he has not spoken with Benson yet but would understand if it takes a few days for him to meet with the new owner.

''I bought a Subway sandwich today, and he spent $300 million,'' Williams said. ''I'm pretty sure he got more to do than I do. I'm looking forward to talking to him.''

Also unclear is whether Benson might seek to rebrand the franchise to give it more of a Louisiana flavor. The Hornets was the team's original name in Charlotte. Basketball fans in New Orleans still regularly complain on talk radio and in internet chat rooms about Utah's refusal to give up the nickname Jazz, a reference to a genre of music born in the Big Easy and a cherished part of the city's heritage and culture.

Southern beats NMA/MBA in MISO boys soccer

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
A Saipan Southern High School defender tracks down the ball and heads the other way during a friendly match against Saipan International School in the MISO league last Friday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

MISO The defending champions Saipan Southern High School Manta Rays (2-0) bested Marianas Baptist Academy and Northern Marianas Academy (MBA-NMA/0-1), 3-1, in last Friday's Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization boys soccer match held at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

The combined players of MBA-NMA took an early 1-0 lead thanks to a goal by Everest Van Der Maas II 20-minutes into the first half. However, the Rays' Jake Lee knotted it back up just five minutes after Van Der Maas scored.

Then Southern's Hae Sung Lee netted a go-ahead goal in the 29th minute, while teammate Scott King tacked on an insurance goal in the 38th minute of the second half.

Meanwhile, Saipan International School was scheduled to play Marianas High School's Junior Dolphins (MHS2) in the second match, however for the second time in a row MHS2 could not suit up enough players and it looks they will pull out of the competition so organizers will adjust the game schedule accordingly.

Games will now be played at 4pm on Mondays and Tuesdays at the Hopwood Junior High School Field, while the two games every Friday at the Oleai pitch are scheduled for 3:45pm and 5:10pm.

Despite the lack of MHS players, the SIS Geckos still participated in a friendly exhibition match against a make-shift crew made up of some Dolphins and Rays players. The combined team won, 4-1, but scoring details were not recorded.

The season continues today at 4pm with SIS officially debuting against the MHS varsity Dolphins (0-1).

CRUZ

From Page 28

mentum in the deciding third set. However, it was Quan and Lopez who came out strong in the third, posting a 3-0 lead. Cruz and Minor played catch anew and managed to steal the lead, 4-3, however Quan and Lopez made their own rally, winning the next two games to move a game away from wrapping up the match, 5-4.

Cruz and Minor then broke serve in the next game to stay alive and the match eventually went into tiebreak. In the tiebreak, Quan and Lopez went up early, 2-0, but for the nth time, Cruz and Minor found ways to come back and after taking a 4-3 lead, the eventual champions hung in there and finally won when Lopez's return from the baseline hit the net.

Cruz and Minor capitalized on Quan's gamble to move closer to the net, hitting the ball strong and high and dropping it mostly to the baseline where the diminutive Lopez was waiting and at one point had to jump high for a return and missed.

The mixed doubles finals was played for more than two hours and came less than an hour after Cruz and Quan battled in the semifinals of the men's open singles division.

Cruz and Minor advanced to the finals after a straight set win over Jodel Ferandez and Roy Pangelinan last Friday, 6-1, 6-0. Quan and Lopez also had a straight set victory in the other semis game against Christian Miller and Vivian Lee, 6-0, 6-3.

Other winning pairs last week were Dylan Ackerman and Carol Lee, Clayton Izuka and Alex Park, Emily Jones and Alina Ishikawa, and Julia Ishikawa and Tania Tan. Julia Ishikawa and Tan won the girls U12 doubles against Catherine Atalig and Mimi Sakano, while Alina Ishikawa and Jones topped Julia Ishikawa and Sakano in the girls U15 doubles finals 6-2, 6-3. In the boys U12 doubles finals, Izuka and Park prevailed over Michael Jones and Steven Goodwin, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.

MY LADY

From Page 28

were great for catching fish as 20 boats submitted entries of which less than three pounds separated the Top 5 finishers. Moreover, the average catchweight of the 20 entries was just under 19.1lbs.

My Lady Gora edged out *Pare* (25.85-lbs) by less than a quarter of a pound. *Pare* captain Enrique Babauta and angler Jack Sablan split a hefty runner-up prize package that consisted of $500 cash and eight Mobil Smiles cards.

Coming close behind in third place was the 24.05-lb catch of *Fish Hunter,* which has Steve Reyes as boat captain and Pat Takeda as crew. They shared a prize bundle of $250 cash, three Mobil Smiles cards, and a Samsung B2100 equipped with a free SIM card and $10 load.

Joker II's captain Manding Legaspi and crew members Ranie Soriano, Justin Casana, and Nanding Arabit settled for fourth place with their 23.95-lb catch that was good for $150 cash, Samsung B2100 with a SIM card and a $10 load. *Joker IV's* skipper Mario Barit and Annie Legaspi rounded out the fifth spot with their 23.10-lb mahi that gave them $100 cash and a Samsung B2100 with a SIM card and a $10 load.

In addition, *Fish Hunter* won an $800 side bet with its 22.75-lb wahoo that bested *Zeppelin*'s 22.50lb. Sixteen boats chipped in $50 apiece to see which could bring the biggest wahoo to the scale.

The 2012 Mahi Derby was sponsored by the Marianas Visitors Authority, Marpac-Budweiser, Mobil, Docomo Pacific, DPS/EMO's boating safety unit, American Memorial Park, and the Department of Fish & Wildlife.

Meanwhile, SFA would like to remind interested participants and fishing enthusiasts that the 2012 Saipan International Fishing Tournament is scheduled for July 14 and 15 at Smiling Cove Marina.

For more information, contact Frank Tudela at 664-3200 or visit the SFA website at www.sfacnmi.com.

BLUE

From Page 28

Andhok's, which pulled off an upset against second-ranked Mobil at the start of the playoffs, this time could not move past Blue Haus after falling to pressure in the closing seconds of the crucial semis tiff.

Andhok's had a chance to either send the game in overtime or win with a triple when it had the last possession in the closely fought match. However, the Boy Garcia-coached squad could not pull up for a shot in the last 14 seconds, as young gun Raymark Castro instead of going strong to the basket, backpedaled, dribbled too much, trying to avoid Blue Haus defenders chasing him, and still had the ball on his hands when time expired.

Blue Haus saved a two-point win despite trailing by as much as eight early in the fourth quarter. Elmer Esdrelon hit back-to-back treys to anchor a Blue Haus comeback and when the game entered the final one minute, the defending champion managed to build a four-point cushion, 65-61, off Badong Camacho's undergoal stab and Junar Guaib's jumper.

However, Andhok's refused to give up, as after Gino Libuw missed two free throws, Jorge De Guzman got the offensive board for a putback, cutting the lead to two, 63-65, 48.3 seconds left on the clock.

Blue Haus tried to melt the clock in its next possession and with one second left from the 24-second shot clock, Jomar Tumaquip attacked the basket and missed. However, Elmer Esdrelon hustled for the rebound and dribbled out of the paint. There was a one second difference between the game clock and Blue Haus' shot clock and instead of wasting more time, Esdrelon decided to drive to the basket, but Castro tapped the ball from behind. De Guzman then picked up the loose ball and passed it to Castro, whose inexperience in a tough game showed, as he could not decide whether to wait for his teammates and give up the ball or go strong to the basket.

Esdrelon paced Blue Haus in a low-scoring game with his 17 markers. De Guzman led all scorers with 21, including 12 straight points in the third quarter where Andhok's gained momentum, before falling short in the end.

In contrast, QQ showed poise in the homestretch against the pennant champion and silenced the Sunrisers' gunners to advance to the finals.

QQ held the Sunrisers' Preston Basa to four points off one field goal and two free throws. Basa's lone field goal was the Sunrisers' first basket in game and he missed a bundle of outside shots in the fourth period.

Another Sunrisers' shooter, Josh Sablan, struggled, making only a triple late in the fourth quarter. His triple cut QQ's once 12-point lead to seven, 83-90, but time was not on the Sunrisers' side with less than a minute left on the clock, while QQ went 2-for-4 from the line to secure the win.

QQ led by only five at the end of the third off Wowie Abuel's four straight points, 64-59, but it quickly built a double-digit cushion after starting the fourth with a 6-0 run, 70-59. Lerio Pagarao made four of those six points off fastbreak layups and QQ protected the lead, as it used its quickness to squeeze inside the paint and score several undergoal shots.

The Sunrisers, which had the advantage inside, opted for outside attempts and faltered on most occasions in the fourth quarter, missing a chance to make it to the finals after topping the regular season. Incidentally, the Sunrisers also lost to QQ in the elimination round, 59-63.

First Game

QQ Rent A Car 94 – Mangali 25, Paraiso 17, Pagarao 16, Sison 11, Abuel 8, Mateo 4, Camacho 4, Montes 4.

Sunrisers/Island Apparel 86 – Lizama 32, Joyner 26, Mendez 9, Manibusan 4, Basa 4, J. Quitugua 4, Sablan 3, Peters 2, R. Quitugua 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-21, 39-41, 64-59, 94-86.

Second Game

Blue Haus 65 – Esdrelon 17, Talania 14, Aquino 10, Guiab 9, Camacho 8, Itaas 5, Tumaquip 1.

Andhok's Grille 63 – De Guzman 21, Libuw 16, Castro 10, Wesley 7, Umali 3, Capalad 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-9, 26-28, 43-48, 65-63.

DOLPHINS

From Page 28

a solid 3:03. 31, over 10 seconds faster than the latter (3:14. 97).

Lady Rays triumph

Meanwhile, the Lady Manta Rays swept the preliminaries and won the 1,000m finals, before running out of gas in the end during the 500m sprint final.

The Lady Rays logged 7:43.32 in the 1,000m preliminary, 20 seconds faster than the Lady Dolphins (8:03:66). In the 500m, Southern girls marked a 3:36.88 to lead MHS' 3:43.82.

Then the Lady Rays paddled a bit slower in the finals, but still got the job done in the 1,000m event. The Lady Dolphins did a good job closing the gap the second time around and managed an overall time of 8:10.57, but SSHS clocked an 8:02.23 to still rule the 1,000m finals.

After fighting hard in the previous three races, the Lady Dolphins dug even deeper to steal the 500m sprint with a time of 3:33.83. Southern posted 3:44.75.

Only MHS and Southern participated in the season-opening races. The competition will continue this Saturday with the 500m and 1,500m races and junior high school exhibition heats.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	5	3	.625	–
New York	4	4	.500	1
Tampa Bay	4	4	.500	1
Toronto	4	4	.500	1
Boston	3	5	.375	2

Central Division

Chicago	5	2	.714	–
Detroit	5	3	.625	1/2
Cleveland	3	4	.429	2
Kansas City	3	5	.375	2 1/2
Minnesota	2	6	.250	3 1/2

West Division

Texas	7	2	.778	–
Seattle	5	5	.500	2 1/2
Oakland	4	5	.444	3
Los Angeles	3	5	.375	3 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	7	2	.778	–
New York	6	2	.750	1/2
Atlanta	4	4	.500	2 1/2
Philadelphia	3	5	.375	3 1/2
Miami	3	6	.333	4

Central Division

St. Louis	6	3	.667	–
Houston	4	4	.500	1 1/2
Milwaukee	4	5	.444	2
Chicago	3	6	.333	3
Cincinnati	3	6	.333	3
Pittsburgh	2	6	.250	3 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	8	1	.889	–
Arizona	5	3	.625	2 1/2
Colorado	4	4	.500	3 1/2
San Francisco	4	4	.500	3 1/2
San Diego	2	7	.222	6

Yesterday's Games
St. Louis 5, Chicago Cubs 1
Washington 4, Cincinnati 1
N.Y. Mets 5, Philadelphia 0
Houston 5, Miami 4
Atlanta 2, Milwaukee 1
Colorado 8, Arizona 7
San Francisco 4, Pittsburgh 3
L.A. Dodgers 6, San Diego 1
L.A. Angels 7, N.Y. Yankees 1
Texas 6, Minnesota 2
Boston 13, Tampa Bay 5
Baltimore 6, Toronto 4
Chicago White Sox 5, Detroit 1
Cleveland 11, Kansas City 9, 10 innings
Seattle 4, Oakland 0

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Boston	35	25	.583	–
New York	31	28	.525	3 1/2
Philadelphia	31	28	.525	3 1/2
New Jersey	22	39	.361	13 1/2
Toronto	21	39	.350	14

Southeast Division

x-Miami	41	17	.707	–
x-Atlanta	35	24	.593	6 1/2
Orlando	34	25	.576	7 1/2
Washington	14	46	.233	28
Charlotte	7	51	.121	34

Central Division

y-Chicago	45	14	.763	–
x-Indiana	38	22	.633	7 1/2
Milwaukee	29	31	.483	16 1/2
Detroit	22	37	.373	23
Cleveland	20	38	.345	24 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

y-San Antonio	42	16	.724	–
Memphis	35	24	.593	7 1/2
Dallas	34	26	.567	9
Houston	32	27	.542	10 1/2
New Orleans	17	42	.288	25 1/2

Northwest Division

y-Oklahoma City	44	16	.733	–
Denver	32	27	.542	11 1/2
Utah	31	30	.508	13 1/2
Portland	28	32	.467	16
Minnesota	25	36	.410	19 1/2

Pacific Division

x-L.A. Lakers	38	22	.633	–
L.A. Clippers	37	23	.617	1
Phoenix	31	29	.517	7
Golden State	22	37	.373	15 1/2
Sacramento	19	41	.317	19

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Yesterday's Games
L.A. Clippers 112, Golden State 104
Cleveland 98, Washington 89
Boston 94, New Jersey 82
Oklahoma City 115, Minnesota 110
Memphis 103, Utah 98
Indiana 105, Milwaukee 99
San Antonio 105, Phoenix 91

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weekend Sports

Back to busy schedule

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

After the Lenten break, teams returned to their busy schedule and competed in various events at the different venues here.

In basketball, the DLX/Miller Lite caging resumed and had its playoff round. After the playoff games for one week, only two teams were left standing with defending champion Blue Haus earning a return trip to the finals, facing the surging QQ Rent A Car. Pennant champion the Sunrisers were eliminated after losing to QQ, while Andhok's, Mobil, Crytal Pure, and SCS Heavy Equipment were also booted out.

In athletics, elementary, high school, and junior high teams continued to fight for slots for the 2012 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Championships. They completed in qualifying tournaments in throwing, jumping, and running events at the Oleai Sports Complex.

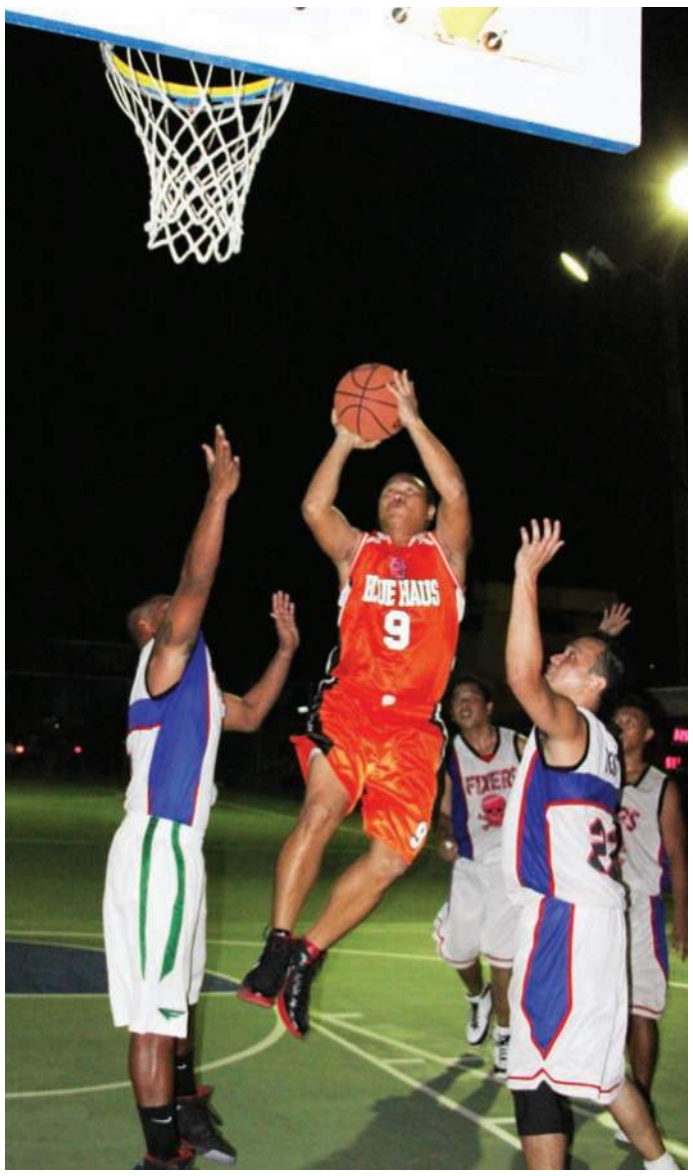
In football, the boys and girls U15 and boys U18 divisions of the NMIFA spring league started the second round of their respective competitions, while the women's and men's leagues also had their separates games at the Oleai and Hopwood pitches.

In baseball, the Major, Senior, Junior, and Big League divisions continued with their regular season games with the Ol'Aces and Comets still undefeated in their respective fields.

Still in baseball, the Fielders prevailed over the D-9ers in the Saipan Major League.

In tennis, Week 1 of the 12th Annual PIC Tennis Championships kicked off with new winners emerging in the junior singles division. The list includes U12's Carol Lee and Luther Lizama, U15's Chris Cajigan and Mikayla Lopez, and U18's Christian Miller and Theecel Minor.

In the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization, Kagman High School won against Marianas High School in their game in the girls fast-pitch softball league, while the Ayuyus also downed the Dolphins in boys soccer.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Blue Haus' Bernard Aquino pulls up for a shot against two Andhok's Grille defenders during their semis game in the DLX/Miller Lite caging last week at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
QQ Rent A Car's Arthur Montes, right, gets tangle up with Crystal Pure's Mike Cruz, center, during a battle for a loose ball in their playoff game in the DLX/Miller Lite caging last week at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Jets II's Jeffrey Lizama eyes an incoming pitch in last week's Senior Lague matchup against the Kagman Lions at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Paire's Adam Walsh, left, tries to save the ball from going out while Wild Bill's Rob Jordan defends him during their game in the NMIFA men's spring league last week at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A U8 student gets ready for the softball throw qualifier for the All Schools meet last week at the Oleai Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Elementary School students line up for the qualifying tournament in the softball throw event in the All Schools meet last week at the Oleai Sports Complex.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
A Saipan International School player tries to get off a shot against a mixed group of Saipan Southern High School and Marianas High School players in the MISO friendly exhibition match held at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Wilson, Pujols lift Angels past Yankees
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Sports

Spurs clinch Southwest Division championship
PAGE 25

Cruz, Minor claim mixed doubles title

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Thea Minor serves, while teammate Bobby Cruz gets ready near the net during their mixed doubles open title game against Mikayla Lopez and Tim Quan in the PIC tennis tournament last Saturday at the PIC hard court.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Micronesian Games veteran Bobby Cruz and junior player Thea Minor faced elimination twice, but managed to survive and win the mixed open doubles crown in the 12th Annual PIC Tennis Championships.

Cruz and Minor clinched the mixed doubles title against former CNMI Team member Tim Quan and girls U15 top player Mikayla Lopez after pulling off a 1-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7-4) win in the finals last Saturday at the PIC hard court in San Antonio.

After winning only one game in the opening set, Cruz and Minor still could not get their games going together, and was only two games away from losing the championship when Quan and Lopez erected a 4-1 lead in the second set. Eventually, Cruz and Minor made a big comeback and won the next five games.

With their recovery in the second set, spectators expected Cruz and Minor to have the mo-

See CRUZ on Page 26

My Lady Gora tops Mahi Derby

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

My Lady Gora's captain Jess Aldan and crew members Jason Aldan, Ton Manibusan, and Bernard Reoligio reeled in a 26-lb mahi to win the Saipan Fishermen Association's 8th Annual 2012 Mahi Fishing Derby last Saturday at Smiling Cove Marina.

The group topped 34 other competitors and went home with a prize package valued at $1,495, which included $1,000 cash and 11 Mobil smile cards worth $45 apiece.

Captain Aldan said the group landed its big catch northeast of Tinian around 7:30am last Saturday. Notably, they were one of the first teams to come in. *My Lady Gora*'s docked around 2:30pm and started its long wait to see if anyone was going to knock the team off the top spot.

It was a long sweat indeed on a hot and sunny Saturday. Aside from the heat, the conditions

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WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

From front left, *My Lady Gora*'s captain Jess Aldan and anglers Ton Manibusan, Bernard Reoligio, and Jason Aldan, with son, pose with the SFA board members after accepting the top prize in Saturday's 8th Annual 2012 Mahi Fishing Derby held at Smiling Cove Marina.

Blue Haus vs QQ Rent A Car in finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Blue Haus is back in the finals and will be defending the championship in the 2nd Domino Lux International Fraternity/Miller Lite Basketball Invitational Friendship League against the streaking QQ Rent A Car this Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Blue Haus and QQ Rent A Car arranged their title duel, following separate semis wins last Friday. QQ Rent A Car took the first finals berth after stunning pennant champion Sunrisers/Island Apprel in the opening semis game, 94-86, while Blue Haus escaped past the hard-fighting Andhok's Grille in the other Final Four match, 65-63.

See BLUE on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Blue Haus' Jomary Tumaquip pulls up for a floater against Andhok's Grille's Gino Libuw during their semis game in the DLX/Miller Lite caging last Friday at the Gualo rai Basketball Court.

Dolphins sweep outrigger canoe opener

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

The Saipan Southern High School Lady Manta Rays cross the finish line just ahead of the Marianas High School Lady Dolphins during the 1,000m outrigger canoe race last Saturday at Kilili Beach.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Marianas High School's Dolphins ran the table in Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization's 2012 outrigger season opener held last Saturday morning at Kilili Beach.

The Dolphins dusted defending champion Saipan Southern High School in the 1,000m curtain raiser, finishing over 30 seconds ahead of their rival after timing in at 6:30.94. Southern submitted 7:07.69 for second place.

In the finals, MHS slowed down with its 6:40.21, but it was still good enough for a win in the photo finish against Southern, which clocked in at 6:41.66.

In the 500m warm-up, MHS secure a sound victory, completing the race under the three-minute (2:58:81) mark, while the Manta Rays trailed by just over 20 seconds (3:18:59). Then in the finals, the Dolphins had a quick sigh of relief after the Rays' valiant effort as the former topped the sprint finale with

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